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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should FICA taxes be deducted from foreign workers in the CNMI?

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15
DAYS TO GO
BEFORE
Christmas

INSIDE



Morton Memo

A top immigration lawyer has identified the so-called "Morton memo" as one of the immigration defenses available for Filipinos and other foreign workers.

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Euro CPR

European leaders were wrestling Thursday over how much of their sovereignty they are willing to give up.

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New NMI labor bill scored for 'inhumane' provisions

- » Up to 25% alien workers' salary deduction for unpaid hospital bills
- » Publication of alien workers' names in newspapers for non-payment of hospital bills
- » Alien registration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives is poised to act next week or before the Christmas break on a "comprehensive" CNMI labor bill that a workers' group said yesterday has many "inhumane" provisions that include allowing deductions of up to 25 percent from alien workers' wages and publications of their names in the newspapers for past due medical bills.

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Fitial yet to deliver 2011 SOCA



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Barely three weeks to go before the end of the year, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to either deliver his 2011 State of the Commonwealth Address or submit a written annual report to the Legislature as the Constitution requires.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said as of yesterday, the Legislature had yet to request the governor to deliver a SOCA, but said the administration will comply with the constitutional requirement of submitting an annual written report to lawmakers before the end of the year.

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SEASON FOR GIVING

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, joins Bridge Capital LLC principal and chief executive officer John K. Baldwin, co-manager Shawn Scott and representatives from most of 13 charitable groups and organizations that received a total donation of \$30,000 from Bridge Capital during a brief ceremony yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Immigration judge orders voluntary departure for Macaraeg

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Immigration Court on Saipan yesterday granted a request for voluntary departure from the CNMI to Epidio A. Macaraeg, a 60-year-old Filipino maintenance worker who has been on Saipan for 26 years and has been in detention for two months while facing removal pro-

ceedings for being jobless.

Judge Clarence Wagner ordered Macaraeg to depart the CNMI no later than Dec. 28, 2011.

Wagner said if Macaraeg's "source" is unable to buy a plane ticket, the voluntary departure order will be automatically converted into a removal order.

"You will not be required to post a voluntary deportation bond. But you will

remain in custody until you depart," the judge told Macaraeg.

Macaraeg was in the office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement during the hearing. He appeared at the proceeding through a video conference. A translator assisted him throughout the hearing.

Attorney Janet King, counsel for Macaraeg, appeared in court along with Patri-

cia Beattie, assistant chief counsel for the Department of Homeland Security.

In answering to the judge's questions, Macaraeg said he has no family in the CNMI and also has no money to purchase a plane ticket to return to the Philippines.

The maintenance worker asked the court to give him a chance to stay in the

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Nishida, Tiglao win VFW annual competitions. PAGE 2
'More warm doors, windows needed for Vladivostok hospital.' PAGE 3

Local

Nishida, Tiglao win VFW annual competitions

» MBA's Murphy bags citizenship education teacher award

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two students were the big winners in this year's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 competitions after being adjudged first placers in the audio re-

cording and essay contests.

Calvary Christian Academy's Midori Nishida was hailed champion for the Voice of Democracy competition where she bested 54 other contenders.

With the theme "Is there pride in serving our military?" the competition is open for high school students to freely express their views about patriotism, democracy, and loyalty through an audio recording.

The 12th grader was awarded a certificate of recognition and a cash prize of \$100 during a special ceremony Thursday night at VFW office in Beach Road.

According to Nishida, this was her second time in the contest but the first time she bagged the overall title. Her winning entry was sent to VFW's Guam counterpart to compete with its champion.

Nishida said she likes to join the competition because she finds the event a great venue to voice out her views and opinions.

For the junior high division, VFW conducted the Patriot's Penn competition where middle school students were encouraged to submit essays discussing their opinion on the theme "Are you proud of your country?" Saipan Community School's Mary Grace Tiglao emerged overall winner in this category and was also awarded a certificate of recognition and \$100 cash prize. It was Tiglao's first time in the competition and she bested over 40 students in the category.

VFW Post 3457 commander Mariano Fajardo, along with other officials and members of the post, also recognized Paul Murphy, this year's recipient of the Citizenship Education

Teacher Award.

Murphy is a teacher at Marianas Baptist Academy and was nominated by his students, co-workers, and family for the recognition. A cash prize and certificate were also provided to the outstanding educator.

When asked why he thinks he was nominated and selected for the honor, Murphy said as a teacher, it is important to impart to students the reality of the world because students are key in making a difference in society.

According to Fajardo, the first place winners will represent VFW Post 3457 in the same competition first in the district level, and if successful, will vie for the title at the department, state, and at the national levels where up to \$30,000 in scholarship grants await the national champion for the Voice of Democracy, while \$10,000 awaits the national winner for the Patriot's Penn category.

Also awarded certificates and cash prizes of \$75 and \$50 were the second and third place winners, respectively.

In the high school division, Marianas High School's Vivien Viernes was the second placer, while Calvary's Savannah Delos Santos was third place.

In the junior high division, CCA's Nesanne Mae Tam and Devonne Dotts were named second and third place winners, respectively.

Entries to the competitions were all judged by selected members of the community. VFW Post 3457 has been conducting the competitions for 10 years now. According to Fajardo, the group will continue to collaborate with private and public schools to get a bigger pool of entries in the coming years.

FOR TELLING HIM TO WASH HIS HANDS:

Man, 61, allegedly strikes niece's left hand with machete

A 61-year-old man allegedly struck his niece with a machete on the left hand when she told him to wash his hands at her residence in As Lito yesterday morning.

Bernardo Toss Sebangiol was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery.

As of yesterday afternoon, the victim was still confined at the Commonwealth Health Center as her left hand was severely cut, police said.

Superior Court associate judge Joseph James Norita Camacho found probable cause to justify Sebangiol's arrest on those charges.

Camacho appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent the defendant.

Bail was imposed at \$25,000 cash bail. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 15, 2011 at 9am.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll called to the witness stand Police Officer Patrick Sablan who narrated to the court the circumstances of the defendant's arrest.

Police investigation showed that Sebangiol got angry when his niece told him to wash his hands. He allegedly grabbed a machete from the kitchen and struck the left hand of his niece. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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Middle Road

'More warm doors, windows needed for Vladivostok hospital'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

A member of the Vladivostok Eco Rotary Club, a sister club of the Saipan Rotary Club, said the extreme cold in the city during winter season has created the need for more windows, doors, and even a new toilet room for the Children's Municipal Hospital 3.

Nataly Kolchev described the situation at one of Vladivostok's oldest hospitals, which serves as an institution for orphaned children from newborn to 4 years old, and even showed pictures

of its facility when she addressed the Saipan Rotary Club general membership meeting last Wednesday.

The Children's Municipal Hospital 3, was the beneficiary of Vladivostok Eco's Warm Doors Project. The project involved the Saipan Rotary Club and three Rotary Clubs in Taiwan.

The hospital cares for more than 100 young children, over 20 percent of whom are sick with AIDS, said Rotarian Eli Stoilova.

Kolchev said before the renovation project, the hospi-

Inquiries about immigration benefits from USCIS

To streamline public inquiries, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services now has a special e-mail box for questions about immigration in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Personnel familiar with CNMI issues monitor this mailbox. People should e-mail USCIS at this new address, CNMI.CSC@uscis.dhs.gov, with questions about immigration benefits in the CNMI and not e-mail individual USCIS employees.

To get more information about immigration benefits in the CNMI you may:

- Call the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. This toll-free number has automated information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During regular business hours, customers who need more information or assistance can be transferred to a customer service representative for live assistance. In the CNMI, live assistance is available Tuesday through Saturday, 6am to 11am local time.
- Email USCIS at CNMI.CSC@uscis.dhs.gov.

CSC@uscis.dhs.gov.

- Find the status of your case by using the "My Case Status" tool at www.uscis.gov.

- Make an appointment <<http://infopass.uscis.gov/>> at www.uscis.gov to visit the USCIS Application Support Center at TSL Plaza on Saipan. Walk-ins will be seen after people with appointments.

CNMI-related information from USCIS, the agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration benefits, is also available on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/cnmi. USCIS oversees legal immigration and can answer questions about immigration benefits; for information on other issues, please contact the agency or department responsible. (USCIS)

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CLARISSA V. DAVID
Vladivostok Eco Rotary Club member Nataly Kolchev, right, talks about the situation at the Children's Municipal Hospital 3 in Russia as Saipan Rotary Club president Pete Igitol looks on during a membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

tal looked "very bad" as it had "terrible furniture," some of its structure was "destroyed," and it didn't have enough doors and windows.

"But after the project, you can see the big difference," Kolchev pointed out, adding that there were Rotary Club symbols that can be found in newly built hospital doors and windows.

Kolchev noted, however, that the hospital still needs more warm windows and doors. This summer, they found out that the hospital needs new toilet facilities as well.

"We will continue with this project and help the children," said Kolchev. "The hospital is home for them."

With this, the Saipan Rotary Club donated \$1,000 to its sister club yesterday.

"It's always nice to have nice money from nice people, whatever it is. It doesn't matter how much but it's direct from the heart. I can feel it; that's more important. Money is not everything," Kolchev told *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting.

Kolchev, who now lives in Sacramento, California and just

travels to Russia every now and then, noted that some of the doors at the hospital are pose danger to children "because it's right on the baby's eye level." "It's terrible," she added.

Kolchev emphasized that they will finish the project "as soon as possible because winter is coming already."

She also underscored the need to have the children at the hospital adopted or they will have to go to an ordinary orphanage.


"That's not good for them because [at the hospital], they have a better life. They have plenty of

food and all things good," said Kolchev.

Kolchev disclosed that those working at the U.S. Embassy in Russia have adopted some of the children.


Those who are interested in adopting may email her at nkolchev@gmail.com so she can inform the hospital staff.

Wednesday's meeting was also attended by another Rotarian from Russia, Nikolay Cherpak, who is a member of the Rotary Club Vladivostok Center, and another visitor, Victor Yakimov.



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13 CNMI groups, schools get \$30K donation from Bridge Capital

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Christmas is more about giving than receiving especially during tough times, and Bridge Capital LLC exemplified this when it donated a total of \$30,000 to 13 non-profit organizations, schools and advocacy groups based on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Yesterday morning's donations led by Bridge Capital principal and chief executive officer John K. Baldwin and co-manager Shawn Scott bring to over \$70,000 the total amount that the company has donated to different organizations and schools this year.

Bridge Capital is an international investment banking and asset management company headquartered on Saipan.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, press secretary Angel Demapan, other government officials and other Bridge Capital representatives witnessed the presentation of checks held in the governor's conference room on Capital.

The 13 recipients of Bridge Capital's donations include Karidat Social Ser-

vices, First Lady's Vision Foundation, Ben Fitial Foundation, Friends of the Arts, Beautify CNMI, NMI Council for the Humanities, NMI Crime Stoppers, Pet Assistance and Welfare Services or PAWS, Turtle Advocate and Guardian Society, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School on Rota, Tinian Junior High School, and Marianas High School.

Representatives from many of these groups separately thanked Bridge Capital for the donations, saying the donation will go a long way in supporting their programs and activities.

Inos thanked Bridge Capital for "being a good corporate partner," and for its contributions to the CNMI community since 2006.

Baldwin, during a brief ceremony, said they have always been identifying needs in the community and address them.

Besides donations to charitable organizations and groups including those that promote and preserve art, music, and literature, the firm has also sponsored annual art competitions for the last three years.

Baldwin said Bridge Capital is contemplating on partnering with the organizers of the Flame Tree Arts Festival next year, and will continue to support Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band for its London trip.

"I think that to be a good corporate citizen, we all have to remember that during tough times, people need more help, not less help. And we have a good company, we work hard. We made a commitment 20 years ago to always give to the community. It's an important thing to do... Things are tough so we want to give more," Baldwin told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview later.

Sam Sablan, executive director for MINA, said they're "very grateful" for Bridge Capital's donation especially because "in today's economy, it's hard to find donors to support environmental programs. Many do not prioritize the protection of the environment, and it's been challenging for us."

"We will use the donation of \$2,000 to promote conservation," Sablan said.

Frank Gibson, treasurer for Friends of the Arts, said the donation will help

support their programs and their charity organization. Friends of the Arts received a \$2,000 donation.

During a similar ceremony last year also in the governor's conference room,

Bridge Capital donated \$38,700 to 13 organizations; one of them—Karidat—received a donation of a new van. That brought last year's total donations to almost \$51,000.



COURTESY CALL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

California immigration lawyer Ted Laguatan, second left, and his wife Josephine, left, makes a courtesy visit to Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) in Capital Hill Wednesday morning. Laguatan hosted an immigration forum Thursday for foreign workers in the CNMI at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Free Cash for College workshop on Tinian on Dec. 13

The Northern Marianas College and the College Access Challenge Grant will host a free "Cash for College" workshop that is aimed at assisting students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

The free workshop is on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site in Room D. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so

participants can stop by anytime between 12:30pm and 4:30pm.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Tinian Municipal Scholarship, the CNMI Scholarship and more.

It is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of iden-

tification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), tax forms, and proof of CNMI residency for 2009 and 2010, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information, call NMC at 433-0657/0649 or email mari-aa@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

INHUMANE

From Page 1

Under House Bill 17-234, employers are no longer required to pay for their alien workers' medical expenses.

"This bill has many provisions that are inhumane and the government should have done more research before doing this," United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Syed said the CNMI government didn't take the initiative to collect from employers over \$6.1 million in unpaid wages of alien workers, "now they want to deduct directly from workers for unpaid hospital bills without going through a more proper process."

Within 30 days of this bill's enactment into law, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has to maintain a database of employer and employee information "so that it can collect from wages or salaries paid by employers amounts due and owing (CHC) that are not paid by employees."

CHC may collect directly from an employer "up to 25 percent of the monthly wages or salary of any employee who fails for more than 30 days to pay the full amount due under any invoice issued by (CHC)...until the full amount of the invoice is paid."

If employers fail to provide information to CHC, they may be required to pay from their own fund the full amount owed by their employees to CHC, or face a fine of up to \$1,000 for each such failure.

CHC is also required to publish a notice in an English-language newspaper in the CNMI the name and any other necessary identification information of

any person who fails for more 30 days to pay the full amount due under any invoice issued by the (CHC)."

Syed said this is "too much" and could be an invasion of patient privacy rights.

The bill says the publication shall provide notice of non-payment, without violating privacy interests in the treatment provided or the amount owed, together with the invoice number and a 20-day period for objections to be filed to any aspect of the invoice.

Alien registration

The 64-page bill also requires alien registration by the CNMI Department of Labor, but only if the federal government fails to do so.

HB 17-234 or the "Labor Act of 2011" is co-authored by Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), and Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

Cabrera said yesterday that a House session is tentatively set for next week, and HB 17-234 could be acted on.

"This bill patterns the CNMI labor law after U.S. state labor laws. Labor is still under CNMI control," Cabrera said.

Human rights advocate and former Rota teacher Wendy Doromal believes that alien registration is an "immigration" matter and should therefore be left with the federal government.

Under the bill, aliens who fail to register could face jail time of up to 90 days, fined up to \$500 or both.

Syed, for his part, said the CNMI government should focus on developing the CNMI economy and not create more burdens to existing and prospective investors, instead of focusing on issues that are now under the control of

the federal government.

HB 17-234 said U.S. Public Law 110-229, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, does not preempt the Commonwealth's labor laws.

A section-by-section analysis of the bill says now that the CNMI no longer has immigration powers, it does not have a broad basis on which to treat alien workers differently.

It says it's necessary to repeal existing labor legislation and replace it with a new law because Public Law 15-108 or Commonwealth Act of 2007 was enacted to reform the guest worker program prior to federalization when it was still unclear whether any federal bill would be enacted or what it would contain.

Second, P.L. 17-1 or the Immigration Conformity Act of 2010 was enacted after federalization primarily to take all of the immigration provisions out of the Commonwealth Code.

This law also made changes to the labor law to govern the interim period before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services promulgated its final worker rule for the transition period and while the CNMI's interim umbrella permit program was still in place.

That interim period ended on Nov. 27, 2011.

HB 17-234 allows the CNMI Labor secretary to set fees to recover the cost of services rendered by the department to the public.

Under the bill, a U.S. worker may make a complaint to the CNMI Labor, including a claim for damages, if an employer has rejected the U.S. worker's application for the job without just cause, and the employer employs an alien worker for the job.

IMMIGRATION

From Page 1

CNMI so he could continue to work.

Macaraeg said it is Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or MAHAL, who is helping him in his case.

Wagner said based on the information Macaraeg is not qualified for any relief.

King explained to the court that Macaraeg has a potential employer.

King requested to instead grant a voluntary departure to the respondent so he could possibly come back to the CNMI.

Wagner, however, stated that he can't grant voluntary departure if the respondent has no money to buy his plane ticket.

King said she is not sure whether the prospective employer or the Philippine Consulate will purchase the plane ticket for Macaraeg.

Wagner then ruled that under the circumstances he will grant voluntary departure to the respondent.

After the hearing, an ICE agent assisted Macaraeg as he could hardly walk due to arthritis that reportedly has worsened due to a very cold condition inside his detention cell at the Department of Corrections.

ICE agents arrested Macaraeg last October when he did not appear at his immigration hearing due to confusion about his hearing date as it was handwritten.

The worker was supposed to be deported on Nov. 7, but Reyes was able to provide him with counsel, who then filed an emergency motion to reopen proceedings and rescind the order of removal entered on Oct. 4, 2011.

Among the grounds cited for removal was that Macaraeg is jobless, has no immigration status, and has no umbrella permit.

MAHAL president Reyes said Macaraeg is among the 628 aliens who were granted conditional umbrella permits.

each year.

The last joint session of the Legislature to receive Fitial's SOCA was on May 27, 2009.

Last year, the House of Representatives didn't act on a Senate joint resolution to have the governor's SOCA on Capital Hill.

As a result, the governor only submitted a written report dated Dec. 30, 2010 that summed up the present state of the CNMI: "Undoubtedly, the state of our Commonwealth is in severe disarray."

He said Fiscal Year 2010 ended with a deficit of \$18.6 million and that the projected shortfall for the first quarter of FY 2011 is some \$6 million.

Article III Section 9 (b) of the CNMI Constitution requires the governor to report "at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth and new measures that are necessary or desirable."

It also says the report "shall include a comprehensive annual financial report prepared in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting principles."

FITIAL

From Page 1

"It's the Legislature that asks for that, by joint resolution. We haven't received any," Inos said in an interview during Bridge Capital LLC's donation ceremony held in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the leadership has yet to decide whether to ask for a SOCA or just wait for a written annual report from the administration.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said he will bring this up with senators on Monday.

For House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), the governor should be made to deliver an address because he "has the responsibility to inform the people about the current state of the CNMI."

During Fitial's first term as governor, he was always asked by the Legislature to deliver a SOCA in April or May of

Businessman opens new postal service in Dandan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Residents of Dandan and nearby villages will now have convenient access to private mail service with the grand opening of Dandan Postal Services across from Joeten Dandan Building at 10:30am today.

Dandan Postal Services owner Joe Ayuyu said their grand opening comes with a very attractive promotion to encourage customers to rent a mailbox with them. The first 100 customers today will get a chance to rent a mailbox for three months for free.

Ayuyu, who is also the owner and president of McDonald's Saipan, said today's event is for the entire family. Refreshments will be served while Hapi D' Clown entertains the customer's children to allow their parents to deal with the mailbox rental application.

"We're very excited that we're providing a much needed service in the community," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ayuyu disclosed that the building, which used to house a postal service and school, was already abandoned before he bought it about a year ago.

"When I came in, I saw all these mailboxes that were in place and ready for use," recounted Ayuyu, who was encouraged by Saipan Postmaster Amy Marshall to reopen the private postal service business.

"Amy Marshall mentioned that there's about 700 people who are in the waiting list for mailboxes at the post office in Chalan Kanoa and they cannot accommodate them now," said Ayuyu. "Not only is there a demand, the location is also very suitable and convenient because it's in a residential area. Putting



Dandan Postal Services owner Joe Ayuyu, second right, is flanked by, from left, Ana Olaes, Narme Mendoza, Regl Jicko, wife Marcia Ayuyu, and Kuwery Philip.



Dandan Postal Services located at the RJ Plaza Building across Joeten Dandan will have its grand opening at 10:30am today.

it all together, I think it makes a lot of sense."

Ayuyu said Dandan Postal Services has 960 mailboxes in small, medium, and large or business sizes that are available for rent and can be paid per

Services are money order and registered mail," said Ayuyu.

Although Ayuyu has no previous experience running a postal service business, he said Marshall has been very accommodating and helpful, providing the needed training to their staff.

Dandan Postal Services, which will be manned by staffers Regl Jicko and Kuwery Philip, prides itself in going the extra mile for their customers.

"If they have a package that arrived, we'll have our friendly staff give them a call so they don't have to go check their mailbox often. That's personal service, really," said Ayuyu.

In fact, Ayuyu said they will assist customers who will rent a mailbox with them in preparing change of address letters to banks, utility agencies, and other service providers.

Ayuyu noted that unlike the U.S. Postal Services which is a government entity, Dandan Postal Services is a private business and "so our cost is a little bit higher."

Besides being in a suitable location, Dandan Postal Services offers more convenience by having more operation hours to better serve its customers.

Visit Dandan Postal Services at the RJ Plaza Building across from Joeten Dandan for your postal needs. For more information, call 235-7678.

Southern villages on Saipan to suffer power interruptions today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a three-hour power interruption tomorrow, Dec. 10, from 5:30am to 8:30am.

The areas affected by this scheduled outage are:

- Chalan Piao Mobil to Hopwood Jr. High School
- San Antonio
- Portions of Afetnas
- Agingan Treatment Plant
- Koblerville
- Coral Ocean Point
- As Gonno

The purpose of this interruption is to allow the CUC power crew to replace a rotten primary power pole in front of the Sewer Lift Station by the Agingan plant and perform line clearing in the aforementioned areas.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. CUC humbly apologizes for any inconvenience resulting from these projects and the power interruption, and extends its sincere gratitude for the public's understanding. (CUC)

IMMIGRATION LAW

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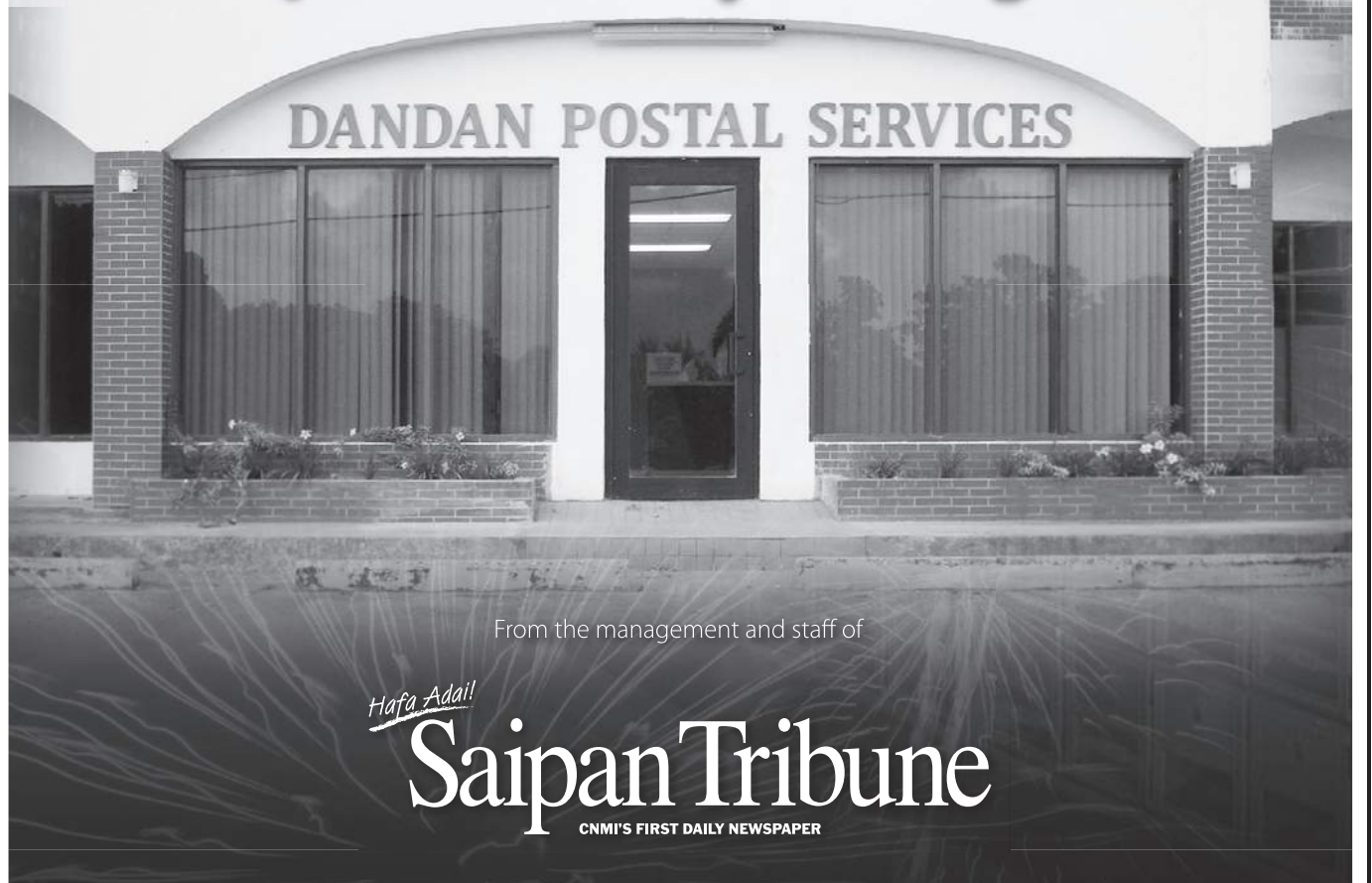
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*Congratulations
on your
Grand Opening*



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

Islamists rise in a new democracy

First the good news about the parliamentary elections in Egypt. They took place as scheduled—despite violent encounters between protesters and police last month that raised the prospect of a postponement, and despite threats by some parties to boycott.

Voter turnout was high, despite fears of lax security and rigged results. The polling went off peacefully, for the most part. Overall, reported the Associated Press, these elections were “the freest and fairest in living memory.”

Egypt's revolution has moved from the streets to the corridors of power. Elected representatives acting with electoral mandates will now begin assuming responsibility for the operation of the government. It's a huge step in a country ruled for decades by dictators.

And the bad news? Instead of rallying behind tolerant, secular political parties, Egyptians voted mostly for Islamist ones committed to expanding the role of religion in government. The Muslim Brotherhood led the field with 37 percent of the votes, followed by the ultraconservative Salafis at 24 percent. A bloc of secular parties came in third with 13 percent, and the liberal Wafd party got 7 percent.

The dominance of Islamists raises fears that the Arab Spring will give way to a harsh winter. The Salafis would like to ban alcohol, interest-bearing loans and unveiled women. Allied with the more moderate Muslim Brotherhood, they could turn Egypt into something resembling Saudi Arabia.

But that alliance looks unlikely, since the two groups have long been at odds. The Salafi party leader ruled it out and the Brotherhood has attacked the Salafis for their extreme positions. Steven Cook, an analyst at the Council on Foreign Relations, notes that “the Muslim Brotherhood contingent in the 2005-2010 People's Assembly was made up of generally responsible parliamentarians.”

Its success at the polls owes a lot to the fact that for decades it has functioned as the chief opposition to the government. Secular parties, by contrast, had to establish themselves in a matter of months, putting them at a great disadvantage.

It's not impossible that the new parliament could turn Egypt onto a scary path. That doesn't mean the rest of the world should regret the end of Hosni Mubarak's corrupt tyranny. Democracy does not guarantee positive outcomes, but dictators almost invariably assure bad ones.

What the religious zealots have to keep in mind is that once they have a share of power, they will be held accountable by the people for their performance. Preaching is easier than governing. Egypt has deep economic and social problems that demand solutions, and arresting bare-faced females won't help.

A new constitution is in the works. The vital thing is that it contain strong provisions to assure that the various parties and factions may compete freely for public support. If that happens, Egyptians will have the power to evict any leaders who abuse their position. Democracy means accountability.

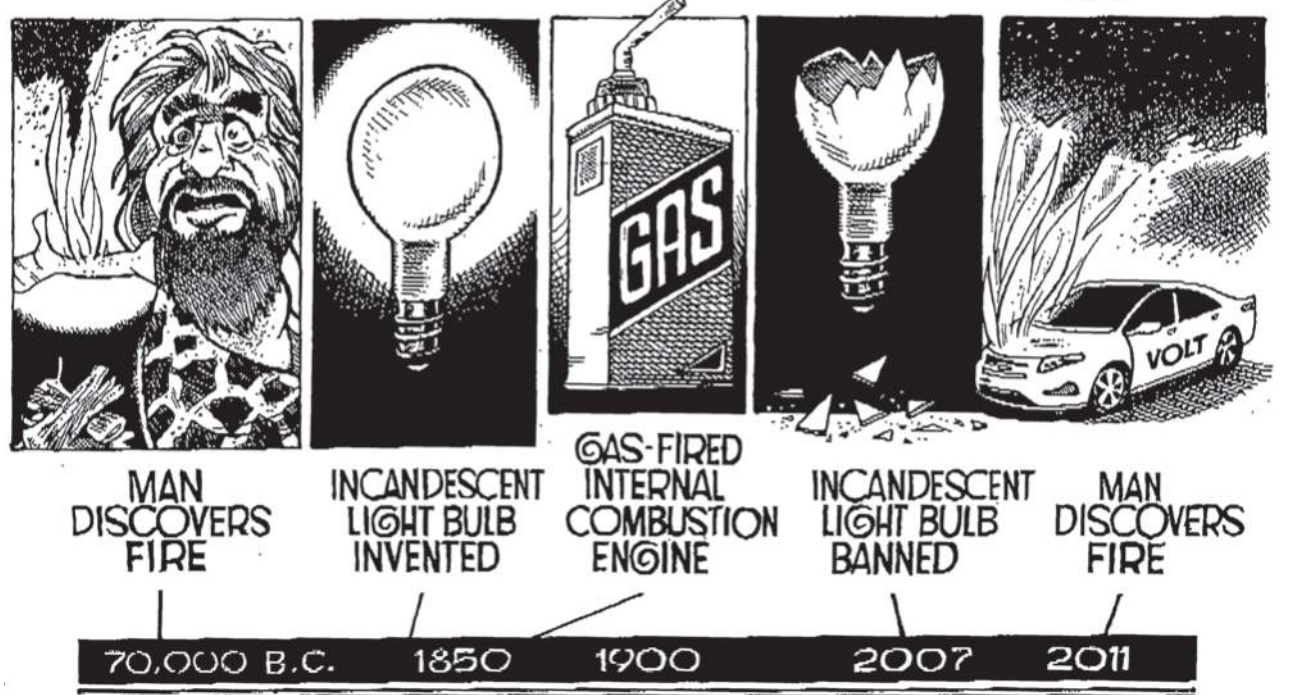
If Egypt's new leaders try to abandon democracy in favor of theocracy, they can be sure of two things. One is that the masses who mobilized to remove a dictator will take to the streets again. The other is that the international community will act to isolate and punish the regime.

The people of Egypt have the right to decide how to organize their government and society, even though they will probably make mistakes in the process. As long as they make their choices within the bounds of a democratic system, they will also have the power to fix those errors. We wish them luck.

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Good news and bad in Egyptian election

How worried should we be that Islamists won 70 percent of the seats in the first round of Egypt's first free parliamentary elections?

Especially since 20 percent of the seats went to puritanical Salafis who want to practice the faith as if they lived in Prophet Muhammed's time?

At stake is the fate of the most pivotal Arab state, a longtime U.S. ally with a rich history and culture, which signed the first Arab peace treaty with Israel. Egypt is a critical test case for whether democracy can flourish in Arab states or will lead inevitably to mullocracy.

So of course we should be worried. But the Egyptian elections won't end until March, and much can happen before then. So here's the good news and the bad news about the elections, and some ideas on what might bring promising results.

First the bad news:

Yes, indeed, the strong showing by the Salafi Nour Party is disturbing. Salafis don't speak with one voice, but some preach hatred of Christians on satellite channels allegedly funded by Saudis and Qataris, and some have attacked Christians and burned churches.

Salafi clerics have called for banning interest-bearing loans, alcohol, and “fornication,” while limiting rights for women and Copts. They want to tighten the loose constitutional proviso that all laws be compliant with sharia, and have clerics certify that laws are sharia-compliant. And they want to censor culture: Prominent Salafi candidate Abdel Moneim al-Shahat denounced the works of Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz as “atheist literature.”

Last month, I interviewed the Nour party spokesman, Mohammed Nour (whose name is coincidental), at his public-relations firm in the upscale Cairo suburb of Mahdi. He wore a suit with a striped shirt, and his modern office sported black walls with orange couches and chrome armrests; a female office secretary wore a headscarf and long skirt, but her face was uncovered. Nour said his party was misunderstood, but his comments said otherwise.

“We are always going to believe the Islamic system is better than democracy,” he said. Salafis reversed their previous objection to elections, he said, only because they saw that the ballot had become a vehicle for political change.

But, he added: “You can't have laws that conflict with sharia. The laws before the revolution were all corrupt laws.”

The Nour party would rule out sales of alcohol, or the wearing of bikinis, thus crippling resorts that bring essential tourist revenues to Egypt.

As for women's rights, “we would not elect a woman. It is right not to vote for her.” Required by law to place women on their list, the Nour party put them at the very bottom and used flowers instead of photos of female candidates.

Women could work, the party spokesman told me, “but only in specific positions, because of biology.” (The Salafi candidate for president, Hazem Saleh Abu Ismail, says he would require all women to veil.)

As for the treaty with Israel, Salafis want to see it put to a popular

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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referendum, with the expectation that it would be rejected.

So, the fact that Salafis won a critical bloc of parliamentary seats is sobering. And they will probably do at least as well in the next two rounds of voting, which will mostly take place in rural areas.

However, here is some potentially “good” news:

Of the 70 percent of seats won so far by Islamists, 50 percent belong to the far more moderate Freedom and Justice Party, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood. Far more cautious and more experienced than the brash, younger Salafis, the Brotherhood says it won't further Islamicize the constitution.

Moreover, the Brotherhood and the Salafis dislike each other intensely. The Nour party's strong showing will probably encourage the Brotherhood to try to work closely with non-Islamists in parliament—to offset the Salafis.

And Salafi gains have sent an urgent wake-up call to liberal and leftist parties, which appear to have won about 30 percent of the seats, that they must, belatedly, work closely together. (Ironically, the seculars may now find the Brotherhood has become a vital ally.)

A wake-up call has also been delivered to the Egyptian military. If it heeds it—and it's not clear it will—it will cease its crackdown on civil society, and start listening to the ideas of secular political leaders, such as Mohamed ElBaradei, on how to balance the Islamists by democratic means.

The final piece of good news that militates against further Salafi gains is the moderate character of the Egyptian people. Unlike Shiite Iran, this Sunni country has no tradition of direct clerical involvement in politics, and has rejected radical Islam in the past.

When I spoke to locals last month at an outdoor market in the working-class district of Imbaba, those who were planning to vote for Salafis ascribed their choice to the Salafi tradition of social work and the fact that Salafis had never before been involved in politics.

Now that the Salafis have entered the arena, they will be judged by their performance. If they denounce tourism—a prime source of jobs—they will rapidly lose popularity. And if they call for radical changes in society, they will also lose their shine.

Indeed, in Alexandria, the infamous Abdel Moneim al-Shahat—the Nour party candidate who called democracy a heresy and denounced Nobel laureate Mahfouz—was defeated in Sunday's run-off election. It's too soon to say whether this is a trend, but let us hope so. That would be the best good news of all.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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North Korea's new course

The legacy of the late North Korean leader Kim Il Sung's decision in the early 1990s to pursue a strategic partnership with the United States has run its course. In its place, the focus of Pyongyang's policies has decisively shifted to Beijing. However wary the North Koreans may be of their neighbor, the fact is that from Pyongyang's viewpoint, the Chinese have delivered and the United States did not.

Any shards remaining from the North's previous, decades-long effort to normalize ties with the U.S. were swept away by current leader Kim Jong Il's trip in May to China, his third in barely a year. Based on our discussions with Chinese officials, we believe that during that visit, Pyongyang and Beijing came to an understanding that, in preparation for planned, major domestic political events in 2012, both sides require sustained political stability, a convergence of interests that provides the opportunity for expanding bilateral relations beyond anything enjoyed in the past.

The North is building toward a "prosperous and powerful" nation in celebration of the Kim Il Sung centenary in April; the Chinese are looking toward their 18th Party Congress scheduled for late next year. In both cases, it was apparently decided, stability on the Korean peninsula would serve economic programs and the succession of a new generation of leaders.

In the arrangements—formal and informal—that emerged from Kim Jong Il's discussions with his hosts, Pyongyang agreed not to "make trouble" (as the Chinese described it to us) in the short term, presumably meaning no deliberate military provocations, no third nuclear test and no launch of another ballistic missile. Beyond that, the talks ended in a compromise that neither side found entirely satisfactory. Kim came away with less aid and a smaller Chinese commitment of support than he had sought, though Pyongyang typically asks for more than it can get.

The North did, however, receive increased access to both Chinese capital and technology in spite of United Nations and other foreign sanctions. Kim also obtained, through the establishment of joint economic zones with China along the Yalu River, a locale to

test adjustments necessary to economic development, adjustments that would fall short of what Beijing considers genuine economic reform. Chinese President Hu Jintao, we were told, had to settle for Kim's promise to cause less trouble but without a North Korean commitment to serious steps toward denuclearization.

We believe that this pivot toward Beijing is no routine oscillation in North Korean policy. The drive to normalize relations with the U.S. from 1991 to 2009 had been real, sustained and rooted in Kim Il Sung's deep concern about the regime's future in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Perhaps there was no better demonstration of the North's approach in those years than the situation on Oct. 25, 2000—the 50th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers into the Korean War. Who was in Pyongyang on that date meeting Kim Jong Il? The Chinese defense minister? No, he was cooling his heels while Kim met with the U.S. secretary

If the paradigm shift is real, we expect the North in the near to medium term to make far less overt trouble. Less tension on the Korean peninsula? What could be wrong with that? Nothing, as long as it is understood that such tranquility will also provide a veil for the North's continuing pursuit of nuclear weapons and increasingly sophisticated delivery systems. With the onset of stability and growing Chinese-North Korean cooperation, Pyongyang may well calculate that the outside world's focus on the North Korean nuclear program will become diffuse. Indeed, the North Koreans have long assumed that given enough time, the world would resign itself to their nuclear weapons, as happened with India and Pakistan.

of State. That was no accident of scheduling on Pyongyang's part; it would not happen again today.

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By **ROBERT CARLIN**
and **JOHN W. LEWIS**

Los Angeles Times

Robert Carlin is a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation. John W.

Lewis is professor emeritus of Chinese politics at Stanford. Both have visited North Korea several times. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



ingly sophisticated delivery systems. With the onset of stability and growing Chinese-North Korean cooperation, Pyongyang may well calculate that the outside world's focus on the North Korean nuclear program will become diffuse. Indeed, the North Koreans have long assumed that given enough time, the world would resign itself to their nuclear weapons, as happened with India and Pakistan.

To help things along, it isn't out of the question that Pyongyang might even agree to some U.S. efforts to contain the nuclear program through a series of what Washington calls "pre-steps." The North has repeatedly expressed willingness to consider discussion of its uranium enrichment program and moratoriums on missile and nuclear tests. As unilateral actions, these would have short-term benefits by further stabilizing the situation to provide additional room for discussions. But in the absence of long, serious negotiations between the two sides, they will turn out to be no more meaningful than the ill-

considered agreements of the now moribund six-party talks.

All of which brings us back to the deepening North Korean-Chinese ties, and the downgrading in Pyongyang's calculations of relations with the United States. There was considerable momentum behind the North's strategy for engaging the U.S. in past negotiations. That is no longer the case, with consequences we have only started to feel.

Not just Afghans' shame

By **ERIC BERKOWITZ**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The story of Gulnaz, a young Afghan woman who was raped and then jailed for having sex out of wedlock, has once again drawn international attention to Afghanistan's legal system and its institutionalized discrimination against women.

After giving birth in prison to her attacker's child, Gulnaz, who goes by a single name, was eventually pardoned, perhaps because news of her plight was reported by a documentary filmmaker. But to win her freedom, she had to agree to marry her rapist.

Even with that condition, which some reports say won't be enforced, Gulnaz's escape from a lengthy prison sentence is a welcome departure from the injustices imposed on abused Afghan women. Half of Afghanistan's female prisoners are jailed for zina, or moral crimes, and most of them stand little chance of being pardoned.

Along with outrage, stories about Gulnaz's situation have sparked the usual orgy of self-satisfaction on this side of the globe. A reader's comment posted online in response to Friday's New York Times article about Gulnaz's pardon is typical. After expressing disbelief at the subjugation of women in "most of the Muslim world and large parts of Africa," the reader added: "By the way, I must once again say how much I love America. We have our problems but boy, we

do it right!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Even the liberal Daily Kos observed, "We could never imagine anything like this happening here."

But before we get too smug, we should recognize that our legal tradition has roots that are not all that different from those we condemn, and you don't have to look too far back in history for outrageous examples. For example, it was only in 1980 that the California Legislature made it illegal for a husband to rape his wife. As late as the 1950s, the right of a husband to take his wife by force was enshrined in the laws of every state. As legal authority Rollin Perkins put it in 1957: "A man does not commit rape by having sexual intercourse with his lawful wife, even if he does so by force and against her will."

Shocking, yes, but that had been the law for millennia. When a woman said "I do," she was deemed to have given lifetime consent to her husband's sexual demands.

Rape has always been difficult to prove in court, especially when the man claims the woman consented. Although there is little to emulate about Afghan justice, at least the authorities there accepted that Gulnaz's child was the result of forced sex. By contrast, early English courts took pregnancy as proof that the sex was consensual. The idea was that both the man and the woman needed to experience sexual pleasure to conceive a child, so a pregnancy showed that the woman enjoyed the encounter. And this contemptible theory is not found only in history books. In 1995, North Carolina legislator Henry Aldridge, when arguing against a law to aid pregnant rape

victims, said: "The facts show that people who are raped, who are truly raped, the juices don't flow, the body functions don't work, and they don't get pregnant."

Particularly galling to Western readers of the Gulnaz story was the idea of pushing a rape victim to marry her ravisher. But the Afghan judge who told her she could escape from jail by marrying the rapist was in line with Judeo-Christian tradition. Deuteronomy 22:28-29 lays out how if a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed and "seizes her and lies with her," then "she shall be his wife."

The Afghan judge would also have found friendly company in the courts of Renaissance Italy, which viewed rape as a kind of mating ritual. In one case in Venice, a rapist was given the choice of going to jail for six months, paying a fine or marrying his victim. The man chose marriage.






Gulnaz's imprisonment after suffering a rape was wrong on every level. But the plight of women in Afghanistan and other countries is no cause for Western arrogance, especially when spousal rape was legal here so recently. The rights of American women have been hard won and could be easily lost. To view the Gulnaz case as anything other than a further call to action would be to disrespect her and victimized women everywhere.

Eric Berkowitz is a San Francisco writer and lawyer, and the author of the forthcoming book "Sex and Punishment: Four Thousand Years of Judging Desire." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲ 84 ▼ 78 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲ 86 ▼ 77 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲ 89 ▼ 77 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲ 85 ▼ 77 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲ 84 ▼ 76 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲ 84 ▼ 76 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲ 83 ▼ 78 |

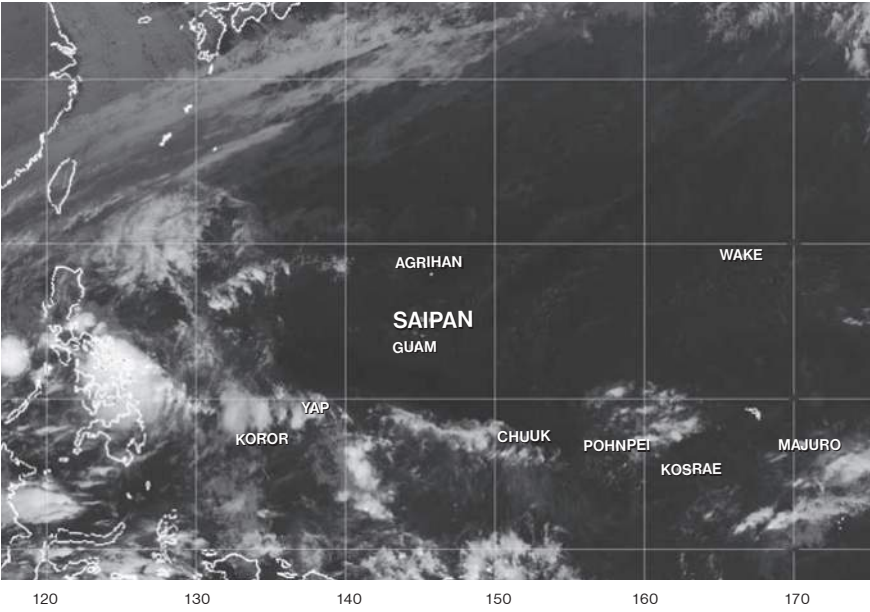
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲ 67 ▼ 61 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲ 44 ▼ 22 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 65 ▼ 52 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 80 ▼ 71 |
| London | Sunny | ▲ 42 ▼ 33 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲ 65 ▼ 44 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲ 84 ▼ 75 |
| Melbourne | Thunderstorms | ▲ 63 ▼ 57 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 80 ▼ 68 |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 42 ▼ 27 |
| Osaka | Sunny | ▲ 53 ▼ 42 |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 43 ▼ 35 |
| Pusan | Sunny | ▲ 49 ▼ 37 |
| Rome | Showers | ▲ 64 ▼ 53 |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 42 ▼ 34 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 61 ▼ 47 |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 42 ▼ 31 |
| Tokyo | Sunny | ▲ 53 ▼ 36 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 41 ▼ 28 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|
| 1:25 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.3 Feet |
| 8:30 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 1:47 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.2 Feet |
| 6:31 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from the southern Philippines across 7N130E to end well southeast of Yap at EQ146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over the Republic of Palau or west of a line from 13N130E to 10N137E to 2N141E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Pohnpei at 9N155E. Upper-level divergence east of the low is combining with trade-wind convergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Kosrae within 120 miles of a line from 6N160E to 10N165E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Majuro or east of a line from 2N173E to 6N173E.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:32 AM | 5:47 PM |
| Sunday | 6:32 AM | 5:47 PM |
| Monday | 6:33 AM | 5:48 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:34 AM | 5:48 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:34 AM | 5:48 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 5:30 PM | 5:57 AM |
| Sunday | 6:22 PM | 6:48 AM |
| Monday | 7:16 PM | 7:39 AM |
| Tuesday | 8:10 PM | 8:27 AM |
| Wednesday | 9:05 PM | 9:14 AM |

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--------------------------|--|---------|----------|--------------------------|
| GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) | | | | ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) | | | |
| C05062 | 2:10am | 2:40am | 1, 5 | C05064 | 5:15am | 5:45am | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) | | | | ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) | | | |
| C05064 | 4:15am | 4:50am | 1, 5 | C05062 | 3:10am | 3:45am | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| C05070 | 4:15am | 5:45am | 1, 5 via ROP | C05062 | 2:10am | 3:45am | 1, 5 via ROP |
| C05070 | 4:35am | 5:25am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 | C05069 | 2:45am | 3:35am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| C05068 | 8:25am | 9:15am | Daily | C05071 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C05074 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C05073 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05076 | 3:10pm | 4:00pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05075 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 | 6:50pm | 7:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05077 | 5:30pm | 6:20pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 | 7:00pm | 7:50pm | 3, 6 | C05077 | 5:40pm | 6:30pm | 3, 6 |
| C05072 | 9:55pm | 10:45pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05079 | 8:35pm | 9:25pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05072 | 10:05pm | 10:55pm | 3, 6 | C05079 | 8:45pm | 9:35pm | 3, 6 |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:35am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:20pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:40pm | 1:15am+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ604 | 3:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily | OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:35am | 7:05am | 4, 7 | OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 6 |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | | | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 | 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:10am | 11:15am | 1 via ICN | OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:40am | 11:15am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | DL172/288 | 8:00am | 1:15am+1 | Daily via NRT |
| C05070/191 | 4:35am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM | C0190/5077 | 10:55am | 6:30pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| DL287/173 | 6:00am | 10:25pm | Daily via NRT | C0190/5079 | 10:55am | 9:35pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| C05068/183 | 8:25am | 9:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM | OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| C05068/183 | 8:25am | 9:40pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C05076/183 | 3:10pm | 9:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM | PR110/C05071 | 10:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5, 7 via GUM |
| C05076/183 | 3:10pm | 9:40pm | 1, 4, 7 via GUM | C0192/5071 | 10:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| C05076/193 | 3:10pm | 11:00pm | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau | C0184/5071 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | Daily via ICN | C0184/5071 | 11:59pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| C05072/PR111 | 9:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5, 7 via GUM | | | | |
| C05072/PR111 | 10:05pm | 7:50am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM | | | | |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) | | | | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN | OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ750/603 | 1:10am | 2:20pm | 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN |
| C05076/179 | 3:10pm | 10:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM | OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ604/723 | 3:20pm | 10:30pm | Daily via ICN | OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ604/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN | C0180/5071 | 11:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |
| LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana | | | | ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) | | | |

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | | | | |
| FRE 1750 | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | Tinian-Saipan | | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily | FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | | | | |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

| SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES | | |
|---|--|--|
| CATHOLIC  | | |
| Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm | Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143 | (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English) |
| Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm | San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131 | Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158 |
| Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273 | Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm | Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am |
| Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568 | Amen Church Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net | Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm |
| Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007 | Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm | Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm |
| San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday | Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27 | Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433) |
| San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass | Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540 | Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm |
| San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm | Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org | Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm |
| San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991 | Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions | Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd. Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661 |
| San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's | Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680 | Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm |
| | Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566 | Victorious Christian Church (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246 |
| | Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am | |
| Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com. | | |



Dec. 10, 1999

BOE okays 2 new high school for Saipan
The Board of Education yesterday approved a plan to build two new high schools early next year to ease overcrowding at the Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School. According to Anthony Pellegrino, BOE member and chair of the CIP Committee, the total budget for the project is \$19. The amount will also cover expenses for the construction of one junior high school. Based on a plan submitted by the committee to the board, the schools will be located in Kagman and Koblerville. Each school can accommodate 600 students, a capacity which officials said is enough to address the projected 3 percent annual growth in student population on Saipan for the next 10 years.

Faisao pushes for approval of FAS migration bill
Saying it is “urgent and necessary,” a proponent of a bill restricting the stay of Freely Associated States citizens in the Northern Marianas has vowed to push the legislation during the few session days left before the current Legislature adjourns. Rep. Melvin O. Faisao, chair of the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee, underscored the need to vote on the measure now in light of the developments on the ongoing talks on Compact renegotiations. He said some provisions in the agreement forged between the United States and FSM, Marshalls and Palau governments can’t be enforced in the CNMI since it controls its own immigration.

Dec. 10, 2001

Salas’ contract with CPA renewed
The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board, during a special meeting Thursday, renewed the contracts of Executive Director Carlos H. Salas and four other ranking ports authority officials. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the employment contracts of Salas, Deputy Director Reno Celis, Staff Engineer Juan R. Sablan, Tinian Ports Manager Ed Sanchez, and Rota Ports Manager Benjamin Manglona Jr. were renewed for another year, following a thorough evaluation of the officials’ accomplishments. Palacios urged the five continue working on their programs and projects that are aimed at improving the Commonwealth’s air and sea transport facilities, including the beefing up of security measures at all points of entry amid threats of terror attacks.

MVA cuts project’s budget by half
Budgetary constraint forced the Marianas Visitors Authority to reduce the annual budget of a local tourism promotion for children by 50 percent. MVA-Korea Marketing Specialist Wayne Pangelinan said an extensive discussion was conducted last week to determine ways on how to maximize the limited budget allocated for the Happy Children In Paradise 2002 campaign. The project, which taps children under the age of 12, hands out souvenir items to arriving children from other countries. MVA kits, composed of a pen, a Saipanda doll, and a gift pack, were given away. Pangelinan explained that the hard economic times forced the committee, which handles the project, to limit the number of gifts distributed to local hotels where tourists are billeted.

Dec. 10, 2002

CHC, Guam hospital ink partnership for new ITS
The Department of Health has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Guam Memorial Hospital for the purchase of a brand new Infant Transport System. Under the agreement, the Commonwealth Health Center and the GMH will share in the purchase and certification cost, which amounts to about \$135,000. According to DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider, the CHC will shoulder 31 percent of the amount, or about \$41,000. The CHC share of the cost was based on the CNMI population, Hofschneider said. “We’ve agreed to go ahead and pay 31 percent of the cost,” he said.

CUC seeks \$1.5M for EPA-required project
With an Environmental Protection Agency deadline clawing at its back, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is seeking relief from the Executive Branch and the Legislature to identify sources for some \$1.5 million additional funding needed to start the construction of the Agingan wastewater ocean outfall. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said the sewer treatment project costs at least \$2.8 million-based on the lowest bidder’s estimate-but only \$750,000 has been made available by the EPA, and some \$1 million would be produced by the utility firm. “We’re requesting their assistance in identifying money for the Agingan outfall,” she said. Babauta said she has already sent a letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta and has discussed the matter with Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente and Saipan Rep. Gloria DLC Cabrera.

Maharlika

FOR ARRESTED OUT-OF-STATUS ALIENS

'Morton memo can be used as one of reliefs'

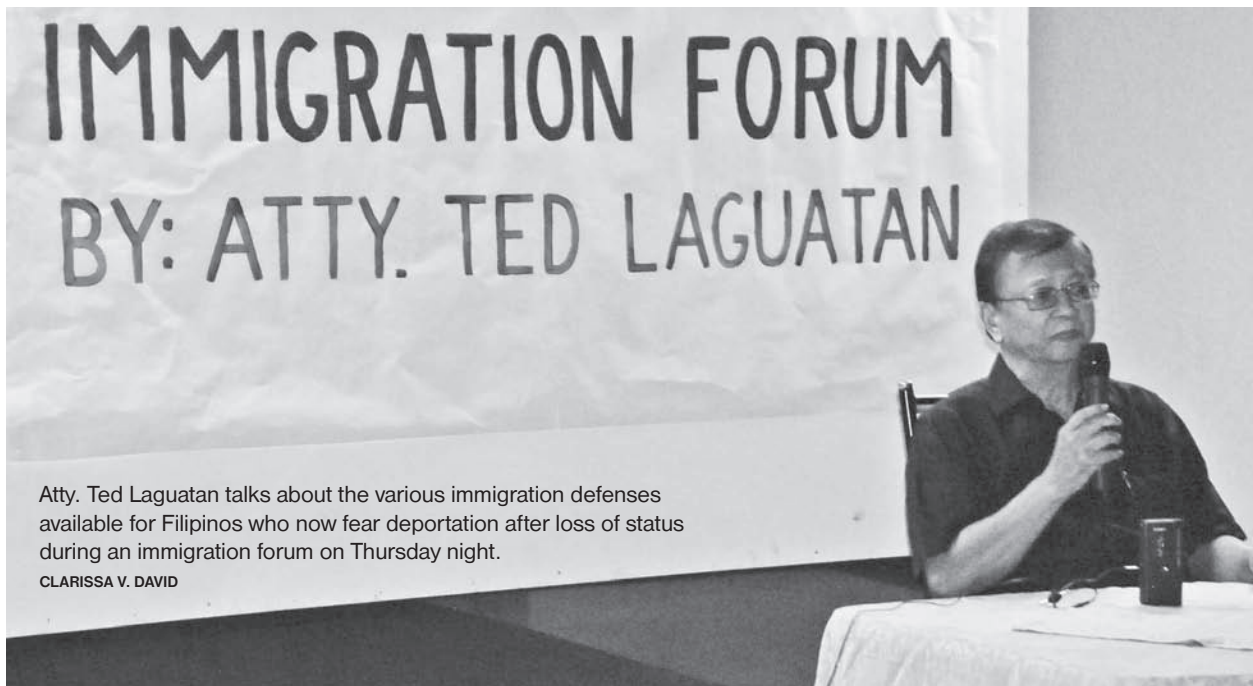
By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A top immigration lawyer has identified the so-called "Morton memo" as one of the immigration defenses available for Filipinos and other foreign workers who lost their status in the CNMI as of Nov. 28.

Atty. Ted Laguatan made this pronouncement to over a hundred Filipinos who attended the immigration forum sponsored by the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance at the Marianas Business Plaza ground floor on Thursday night.

Laguatan made a sidetrip to Saipan with his wife Josephine after a visit to the Philippines. The couple arrived on Wednesday.

Laguatan, one of only 29 U.S. lawyers honored by the California State Bar as certified continuously for more than 20 years as Expert-Specialist in Immigration law, assured his audience that the "Morton memo" can be used as a relief once they go through depor-



Atty. Ted Laguatan talks about the various immigration defenses available for Filipinos who now fear deportation after loss of status during an immigration forum on Thursday night.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

tation proceedings.

"Morton memo" refers to the memorandum issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement director John Morton directing ICE attorneys

and employees to "exercise prosecutorial discretion" and refrain from going after non-citizens with close family ties in the U.S., among other things, unless they are criminals or

pose a clear risk to national security.

The memo, issued in June 2010, covers the CNMI.

Laguatan said the use of Morton memo as a relief can be done even if a

person does not have lawyer. To do so, he said an individual should prepare a letter citing that he entered the CNMI legally and for how long he has been in the islands, that he has not committed any crimes, and the ways that he has been valuable in the community.

Laguatan pointed out that the letter should be supported with reference letters from members of the community such as a priest or a former employer.

Once an immigration judge asks the individual what he wants, Laguatan said the individual should reply by asking the government not to proceed with deportation proceedings based on the Morton memo.

Laguatan noted, however, that the use of the Morton memo is discretionary.

"The government lawyer on immigration may or may not agree but that's one possibility that may succeed based on the Morton memorandum," he added.

During the forum, Laguatan provided answers to questions and cases brought by members of the audience.

Filipino man laments non-release of stimulus, tax rebate checks

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Filipino worker on Wednesday lamented the non-release of his stimulus and tax rebate based on his and his wife's 2010 joint income tax return, saying the money will be used to pay for his mother's medical bills.

Edwin G. Mendoza, who works as a security officer with G4S Security Services, during an interview showed a copy of the letter he personally delivered to the Department of Finance requesting for the immediate release of over \$800 in stimulus and tax rebate.

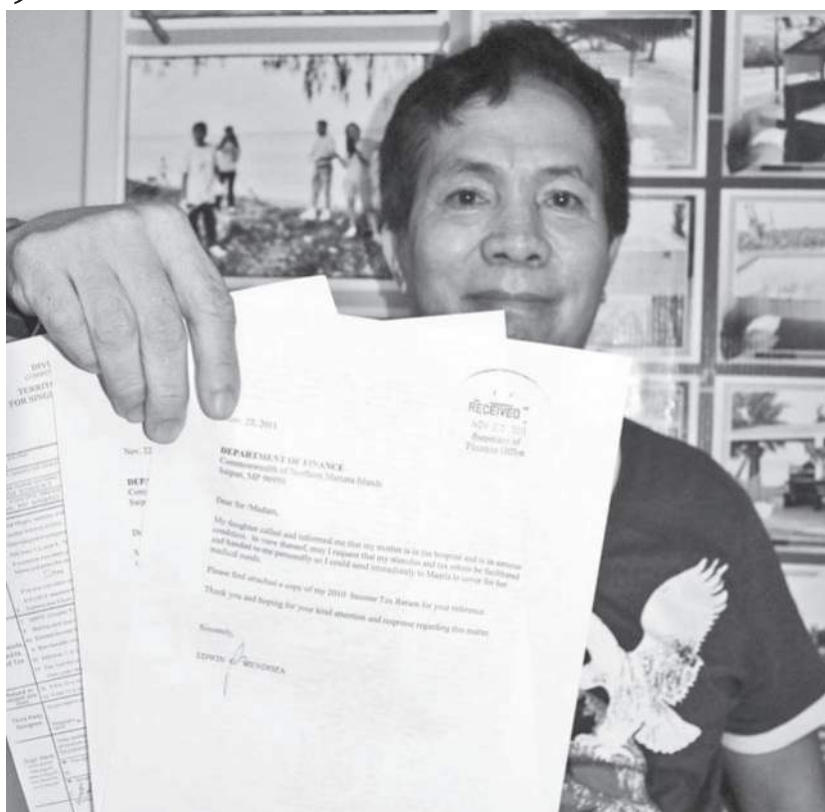
"My daughter called and informed me that my mother is in the hospital and is in serious condition," Mendoza wrote in his letter stamped received at the Finance Secretary's Office on Nov. 22.

In one of the numerous phone calls he made to Finance to follow up his emergency request, Mendoza was told, "It's disapproved" without any explanation.

"I don't know why they would disapprove my request considering it's an emergency," Mendoza told *Saipan Tribune*. "That's why I want to expose what Finance is doing. I want to know why they're delaying the release of my check when it's my money. Even the stimulus is federally funded."

Mendoza, an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, said he has been paying his taxes religiously and has pay stubs and income tax returns to prove it.

He emphasized what the administration said about the release of tax refund and rebate checks especially in emergency cases. "This is already an emergency because of my mother's situation and they still won't release it. How much more for the others out there?"



CLARISSA V. DAVID

G4S security officer Edwin G. Mendoza shows a copy of the letter he hand-delivered to the Department of Finance requesting for the release of his tax rebate and stimulus checks amounting to \$831.21.

Bringing to light what happened to him, Mendoza said, is his way of helping his fellow Filipinos and other foreign workers who have yet to receive the money due them by the local government.

"I have nothing to lose in exposing this. If nobody would expose this, they're just free to steal the people's money and that's the truth," he said.

Mendoza, who is from Manila, said there are many Filipinos who are already headed back to the Philippines this month yet still haven't received

their tax refunds and rebates after duly paying their obligations to the CNMI government.

"I feel sorry for the ordinary 'Juan Dela Cruz,' who can't do anything but cry in silence since he can't do anything at this point and that's the reality," he said.

Mendoza also said that he even wants to bring his situation to the next level and go to a lawyer but he is unsure if anybody would take his case.

"I'm only after bringing this out for my fellow Filipinos," added Mendoza.

UFO: All set for 2011 Paskong Pinoy

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific and Tan Siu Lin Foundation headline the roster of sponsors for the 2011 Paskong Pinoy.

Bong Malasarte, president of United Filipino Organization which organizes the annual event, expressed yesterday his appreciation to the two establishments for stepping up to the plate and making the Christmas celebration of the Filipino community possible.

Malasarte disclosed that Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson did not hesitate to sponsor the annual event when he got approached by UFO, the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the Commonwealth.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation, on the other hand, has always been a staunch supporter of UFO and its many programs and events, said Malasarte.

"We are really very thankful to James Nelson of Docomo Pacific and Jerry Tan of Tan Siu Lin Foundation for their generosity despite the economic downturn that's affecting all businesses and organiza-

tions in the islands," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

Olive Yana, 2011 Paskong Pinoy program co-chair, said in a separate interview that arrangements for this year's program are doing well.

Yana said 20 food vendors and 12 non-food vendors have already reserved their spots for the event which is slated for Saturday, Dec. 17, from 4pm to 10pm at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Yana, UFO past president and now an adviser, said even the list of performers is also being finalized. Guests will be entertained with Filipino cultural dances to be showcased by various groups as well as Christmas songs to be rendered by singing groups such as the Umang Glee Club, she said.

Different competitions like the singing and Christmas lantern contests will also highlight the event.

"It's going to be a Christmas celebration in true Pinoy style," said Yana.

For more information about the program, call Olive Yana at 285-7893; for interested vendors, call Paul Madriaga at 287-4501 or Anna-mae Adaza at 483-5237.

275 Pinoys avail of free health screening

A total of 275 Filipino workers availed of the 4th Quarter 2011 "Free Health Screening for OFWs" held at the Marianas Business Plaza ground floor last Sunday.

The event was organized by the Philippine Consulate General, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, CNMI Pharmacist Association, Hardt Eye Clinic, and Bayani Association.

Of the 275 who availed of the

blood pressure and blood sugar checkups, only 65 of them had their vision checked.

Dr. Nathan Tan, Dr. Ester Kanayjorn, and the rest of the volunteers facilitated the event and provided the free medical services.

The event concluded with a party for all volunteers and staff.

The consulate expressed its "heartfelt appreciation" to all the volunteers for making the health screening program for 2011 a success. (Clarissa V. David)

Liberal Party cool to talks with Supreme Court

»Aquino party sees no room for mediation

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA,
NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Senators belonging to the ruling Liberal Party (LP) are not keen on the proposal for mediation between President Benigno Aquino III and the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Senator Franklin Drilon, the vice chairman of the party, on Thursday told reporters that it was “extremely difficult to look for a middle ground” in the mediation proposed by some members of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines.

Drilon said that while the President had indicated an openness to a dialogue, “the difficulty in the situation is that the Supreme Court insists that its decisions are in accordance with the law.”

“So if I am the mediator, I will not know where I will start,” he said.

Drilon pointed out that the conflict between the President and the high court did not arise from “a difference in policy, where you can mediate,” but from “the perception that the Supreme Court is not up to its task of being an impartial arbiter of disputes.”

“I cannot see how you can mediate this dispute between the Supreme Court and Malacañang,” he said.

Instead of endorsing the mediation proposed by some bishops, Senator Francis Pangilinan reiterated his call for Corona’s inhibition from cases involving former President and now Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who named the latter to the post of Chief Justice in a “midnight appointment.”

“The key issue in the clash between the executive and judicial branches is the string of controversial rulings that have placed grave doubt on the fairness and impartiality of the court,” Pan-

Arroyo: I just wanted to serve, I have peace of mind

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said on Thursday she would face the future with peace of mind amid the criminal charges, including electoral sabotage, filed against her.

In an exclusive interview with GMA News’ Arnoldo Clavio on the eve of her transfer to a “detention” suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Arroyo accused the Aquino administration of having prejudged her and engaging in demagoguery.

“What I can say is that I have peace of mind. My conscience is clean,” Arroyo said in her interview.

“My only objective was to serve. Now, I am already prejudged by the new administration. They

are even using demagoguery to vilify me completely. Of course, if I am vilified, he would look competent,” she added.

Nonetheless, Arroyo said she would keep on believing in the rule of law.

Asked for her thoughts on her predicament, Arroyo said she has been told by her father—former President Diosdado Macapagal—to do what’s right and “God will take care of the rest.”

Arroyo was interviewed at her suite at the St. Luke’s Medical Center in Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. She wasn’t wearing her neck brace during the main interview.

According to Clavio in a live report on “24 Oras” primetime news, Arroyo just smiled as a signal that she was declining from answering questions regarding specific details into the cases filed against her.

gilinan, the Liberal Party’s vice president for external affairs, said in a statement.

“Many of these rulings have prevented the executive [branch] from pursuing its commitment to addressing pervasive corruption and exacting accountability and justice,” he said, adding:

“These highly questionable rulings cannot be the subject matter of mediation or conciliation or talks. I may be mistaken, but I am afraid that at this point, any talks between the two branches will just be for show, or pakitang tao lamang, and will not help address the problem.”

Trigger was TRO

Supporters of the Supreme Court argue that Corona, despite being the Chief Justice, is good for only one vote in the 15-member chamber.

To this, Drilon said: “That might be the theory, but the decisions do not confirm that theoretical premise.”

Pangilinan said Corona’s inhibition would “help” ease the tension triggered by the President’s series of public attacks against the Chief Justice and

the high court.

According to Mr. Aquino’s spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, it was the temporary restraining order (TRO) that the high court issued on the travel ban on Arroyo, and not its ruling on the distribution to farmers of Hacienda Luisita, the sugar estate owned by the Aquino-Cojuangco clan, that served to renew the conflict between the executive branch and the judiciary.

“The trigger point really was the TRO,” Lacierda said yesterday at a news briefing. “The TRO compelled us to think, Why is the government being prevented from presenting their side?”

The TRO, issued on November 15 by the high court on a vote of 8-5, effectively lifted the travel ban on Arroyo. But Justice Secretary Leila de Lima insisted that Arroyo’s inclusion in the immigration watch list remained in effect pending the justice department’s receipt of a copy of the TRO.

Lacierda would not comment on suggestions that the President was laying the groundwork for the impeachment of Corona, saying Mr. Aquino had yet to

disclose his plans on the matter.

But Lacierda did say that it would not be the first time for an impeachment complaint to be brought against a Chief Jus-

tice. He cited the impeachment proceedings against then Chief Justice Hilario Davide, and a similar case against a chief justice in the United States.

Impeachment an option

Ronald Llamas, the President’s adviser on political affairs, said Corona’s impeachment was “an option” when asked whether Mr. Aquino was laying the groundwork for it in questioning the Chief Justice’s appointment a week after the May 2010 elections.

“Regarding impeachment, it is always an option but it is to be exercised by Congress and not by the executive [branch], consistent with the Constitution,” Llamas told the Philippine Daily Inquirer in a text message sent from Geneva, where he was attending a United Nations conference.

Pressed if Corona’s impeachment was an option that the executive branch had with the help of its allies in Congress, Llamas said: “What I mean is that it’s a course of ac-

tion available under and sanctioned by the Constitution.”

“We defer to the leadership of Congress at this point—whether they’ll decide to pursue it or not,” he said.

In his recent speeches, Mr. Aquino questioned the haste with which the Supreme Court granted the Arroyo camp’s petition for a TRO on the ban on her travel abroad, and harped on its reversals of its decisions that, he said, led to uncertainty and made effective governance difficult.

Llamas said Mr. Aquino was merely articulating “widely held sentiment.”

He added: “The President has been consistent from the start in his position on the Chief Justice’s midnight appointment.”

“Overwhelming public frustration with the court’s decisions, particularly with regard to efforts to hold abusive public officials from the previous administration accountable, only shows that the apprehensions regarding the Chief Justice’s appointment were well-founded.”



AZKALS-GALAXY

Los Angeles Galaxy’s Landon Donovan, second from right, and Aly Borromeo, second from left, team captain of the Philippine Azkals, exchange jerseys as LA Galaxy’s David Beckham, right, and Philippine Azkals’ Phil Younghusband look following a news conference in Manila, Philippines, Thursday Dec. 1, 2011.

By MELVIN GASCON
INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Motorists passing through this Cagayan Valley province have expressed disgust over the poor condition of the national highway, prompting some of them to label Nueva Vizcaya as the “bad roads capital of the Philippines.”

They are also seeking an investigation of the alleged neglect and poor management by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that led to frequent delays in travel caused by ongoing road repairs along Maharlika Highway here.

“I have been to many places in our country but I have not seen a national highway as bad as this and ongoing road projects as badly managed,” said rice trader Roderick Gamayon of Isabela.

“My fellow businessmen in Isabela have called Nueva Viz-

N. Vizcaya tagged PH’s ‘bad roads capital’

caya the ‘bad roads capital of the Philippines’ because that is the truth,” he said.

8-hour standstill

On Sunday, traffic was again stalled for at least eight hours on the mountain road in Barangay Tactac in Sta. Fe town after an 18-wheel truck blocked a tight and steep bend on the single lane portion of the road, site of a DPWH road repair project.

Thousands of passengers who got stuck on the road were either coming home to Cagayan Valley or going to Metro Manila for the start of the workweek on Monday, said Senior Insp. Alexander Balut, Sta. Fe police chief.

“Among the most desperate set were OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) who were trying to catch their flight the next day,

and families who were taking their sick relatives to Metro Manila for treatment,” he said.

While it took them nearly four hours to remove the stalled truck, policemen and workers spent the next four hours untangling and alternately letting through about 1,500 vehicles that had piled up from both directions.

“Everyone wanted to squeeze their vehicles through and occupied the opposite lane, blocking oncoming traffic. We had to confiscate the licenses of a number of undisciplined drivers,” Balut said.

The impact of the frequent delay here has been felt by vegetable traders at the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal in Bambang town, who have suffered losses for failure to deliver

their produce on time to buyers at Balintawak and Divisoria markets in Quezon City and Manila and in Urdaneta City.

Fire sale

“We are forced to sell our vegetable at half the original selling price because of the diminished freshness of the vegetables, caused by the delay of travel,” said trader Danilo Acosta.

For others, driving on the Nueva Vizcaya portion of Maharlika Highway is “like a nightmare.”

“Whenever my friends in Manila talk about their experiences in coming to Cagayan Valley, the one on the hours of delay is most unforgettable. Nueva Vizcaya has become synonymous with bad roads,” said Dennis Tan, a software

specialist from Santiago City.

Except for road stretches with manageable defects and those that have been newly repaired, motorists passing through Nueva Vizcaya have to deal with highway conditions that are either “under repair” or “badly needing repair,” Tan said.

Commuters here have also been complaining about the condition of the asphalt-paved national highway in Barangay Bonfal Proper, which links this capital to Solano town.

“It has been widely noted that in Nueva Vizcaya, roads have a very short life span that what has been newly repaired may be needing rehabilitation again sometime soon,” said Ramil Urbano, a courier service driver and resident of San Isidro, Isabela.

‘Bear with us’

But the province’s DPWH officials dismissed the criticisms, saying the agency is doing its best to constantly improve national roads.

Ronald Reyes, chief of the province’s DPWH main district, said his office has laid out plans for repair work on portions of Maharlika Highway.

Road sections in Bayombong and Bambang towns, including the Bonfal section, would be redone by the contractor at its own expense because the project is still under warranty.

Rodolfo Torralba Jr., chief of the Nueva Vizcaya DPWH sub-district, blamed overloaded cargo trucks and undisciplined drivers for perennial bottlenecks on the mountain road in Sta. Fe.

“Traffic jams are some of the inconveniences that the public must bear with us,” he said.

Samu't Sari



IN APPRECIATION
Pacific Islands Hawaii Export Assistance Center director John Holman, left, awards a certificate of appreciation to Phillip Mendiola-Long for his support to the CNMI export industry during a presentation at the American Memorial Park on Wednesday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



'RAPUNZELED'
The cast of the special musical show *Rapunzeled* rehearses for the presentation, which is slated for two nights on Dec. 16 and 17, starting at 7pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The production is in collaboration with Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band where a portion of the proceeds will be donated for its upcoming Olympic trip in London next year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ROTARY VISITORS
From left, Saipan Rotary Club president Pete Igitol, Vladivostok Eco Rotary Club member Nataly Kolchev, Rotary International District 2750 governor Akio Katakura, Vladivostok Center Rotary Club member Nikolay Cherpak, district secretary Satoshi Kubo, Victor Yakimov, and Rotarian Ivan Ilmov.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



From right, Rotary International District 2750 governor Akio Katakura, district secretary Satoshi Kubo, Rotary Club of Saipan president Pete Igitol, and assistant district governor Cindy Siren Mori.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Stacy Guerrero, local courts administrator, shares with Marianas High School graduating students her education and job experiences during the Start Smart seminar Wednesday at Saipan World Resort.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Lourdes Santos Hocog, affectionately known as "Nan Diding," who is celebrating her 77th birthday tomorrow, Dec. 11! Warm greetings come from your entire family! We wish you the best on your special day!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Ricardo "Mezing" Torres! Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened. A birthday is just the first day of another 365-day journey around the sun. Enjoy the trip. Hope your birthday blossoms into lots of dreams come true!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 8th birthday to LenaRit Ruak Santos! God bless you. Shoutout coming from Grandpa, Grandma, and the Pale' crew.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

China's inflation at 4.2 percent in November

SHANGHAI (AP)—China's chronically high inflation rate fell to a lower than expected 4.2 percent in November, allowing wider leeway for Beijing to ease credit to support growth.

The National Bureau of Statistics said Friday that falling food prices and a high base from a year earlier helped to bring inflation down from 5.5 percent in October.

The decline will allow authorities more flexibility in easing policies that were imposed to cool the overheated economy but are now seen as a threat to growth at a time when hopes are

pinned on a robust China to help offset the malaise in Europe and the U.S., analysts say.

Moves toward an easier monetary stance may come as early as next week at an annual economic work conference in Beijing that will set policy for the coming year, said a report by Australia's ANZ Bank.

"In our view, this shift will be supported by diminishing inflationary pressures combined with the rising downside risk to the economy," it said.

China's latest bout of inflation was fueled by a binge in bank lending, unleashed by

stimulus that helped fend off the global crisis but ended up mostly in excessive investments in construction and real estate.

Some frugal Chinese families say they have already noticed an easing in some prices.

"Some vegetables and other foods are cheaper now in this season," said Ma Chuanyi, 59, a retired elementary school teacher.

"Household appliances also are not so expensive thanks to discounts," she said.

China has already begun relaxing reserve requirements on banks—raised to record high

levels to help soak up excess cash that was helping drive inflation—to help ease a cash crunch and reopen a flow of liquidity needed to keep growth on track.

Beijing is treading a thin line as it strives to support job-creating growth but also avoid re-igniting inflation that can undermine the economic gains underpinning support for the ruling Communist Party.

The widening gap between

China's rich and poor has further stoked dissatisfaction among a public increasingly fed up with corruption, pollution and food safety scandals.

"The challenge for policy-makers is to enact measures that boost domestic demand and to loosen credit controls somewhat without stoking inflation and property price bubbles," said Jing Ulrich, JP Morgan's chairwoman for global markets.

She forecasts growth next

year at 8.2 percent, well below the 9.1 percent seen in the quarter that ended in September.

Anemic demand from Europe and the U.S. are sapping China's export sector of its more sharply raised fears of job losses and possible unrest.

A manufacturing survey for November released earlier showed its sharpest decline in nearly three years, linked to marked weakness in new orders and exports.

Obama calls morning-after pill call 'common sense'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Thursday it was just common sense to keep girls under the age of 17 from being able to buy a morning-after contraceptive pill off a drugstore shelf. Citing his own two daughters, Obama said: "I think most parents would probably feel the same way."

Plenty of pediatric leaders and women's advocacy groups did not, as reaction flowed in to the administration's decision to prevent the over-the-counter sale of the anti-pregnancy drug to sexually active girls of younger ages.

Critics said politics had trumped science, again.

"When President Obama took office, he pledged the administration's commitment to scientific integrity," said Cynthia Pearson of the National Women's Health Network. "This decision is a betrayal of that promise."

At issue is a pill that can prevent pregnancy if taken soon enough after unprotected sex.

It is available without a prescription only to those 17 and older who can prove their age—

and that will now remain the case after Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius overruled scientists at the Food and Drug Administration. They were preparing to let the pill be sold without a prescription or age limit.

Obama rallied around Sebelius' arguments that younger girls may not be able to understand the medicine's labeling or use the pill properly. He insisted he was not involved in the decision in any way.

"I will say this, as the father of two young daughters: I think it is important for us to make sure that, you know, we apply some common sense to various rules when it comes to over-the-counter medicine," Obama said in a brief news conference at the White House.

Obama's daughter Malia is 13. His daughter Sasha is 10.

Obama said that as he understood it, Sebelius was wary of a 10-year-old or 11-year-old going into a drugstore and buying a medication—one on the shelves next to "the bubble gum and batteries"—that could be harmful if not used properly.

Stores, though, were never likely to put the drug near chewing gum or batteries. It was going to go on shelves by condoms, spermicides and pregnancy tests.

The rhetorical emphasis on the potential for 11- and 12-year-old girls to use the pill also rankled advocates.

There are no age restrictions on other over-the-counter drugs that could potentially have serious side-effects in young children.

"When it comes to FDA drug approvals, contraceptives are being held to a different and non-scientific standard—in a word, politics," said Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights. She said the comments by Obama and Sebelius would suggest no FDA-approved drug—not a Tylenol or a Sudafed—should be on drugstore shelves.

The center has a pending lawsuit against FDA over the morning-after pill restrictions and will argue in court next week that FDA should be held in contempt.

Official: New euro accord to include 23 countries

BRUSSELS (AP)—The president of the European Council said Friday that a new inter-governmental treaty meant to save the euro currency will include the 17 eurozone states plus six other European Union countries—but not all 27 EU members.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel praised the plan.

"I have always said, the 17 states of the eurogroup have to regain credibility," she said. "And I believe with today's decisions this can and

will be achieved."

Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, said the countries would provide up to euro200 billion (\$268 billion) in extra resources to the International Monetary fund.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said early Friday he would have preferred a treaty among all the members of the European Union. But that could not be achieved, he said, because the British proposed that they be exempted from certain financial regulations.

"We could not accept this" because a lack of sufficient regulation caused the current problems, Sarkozy said.

He said the new accord should be ready by March.

Sarkozy also said two bailout funds meant to rescue countries having trouble refinancing their debts—the European Stability Mechanism, or ESM, and the European Financial Stability Facility, or EFSF—would be managed by the European Central Bank, though the details still need to be worked out.



A woman looks at the vegetables she bought from a market at a "hutong" alley in Beijing, China, Friday, Dec. 9, 2011.

Port shutdown pledged despite union rejection

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Occupy Wall Street protesters want to shut down ports up and down the West Coast on Monday in a bid to gum up the engines of global commerce.

But organizers who are partly billing this effort as a show of solidarity with longshoremen have not won the support of the powerful union representing thousands of dock workers.

The tension between the century-old International Longshore and Warehouse Union and a still-young protest movement has complicated an ambitious effort by Occupiers to build an identity that is bigger than their recently dismantled tent camps. Without the support of workers who make the docks run, the protesters will be forced to rely on sheer numbers and their own devices to blockade sprawling ports from San Diego to Alaska.

Longshoremen spearheaded San Francisco's iconic 1934 general strike that ended with two strikers gunned down by police and a stronger contract for waterfront workers.

Any action on behalf of longshoremen should also be led by the workers themselves, the union's current president said.

"Support is one thing, organization from outside groups attempting to co-opt our struggle in order to advance a broader agenda is quite another," Robert McEllrath wrote in a Dec. 6 letter to ILWU locals.

The key issue for targeting the ports is a longstanding dispute between longshoremen and grain exporter EGT at the Port of Longview along the Columbia River in Washington. The protesters say companies like EGT represent "Wall Street on the waterfront" and believe rank-and-file longshoremen

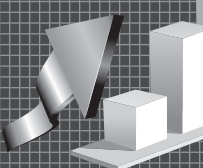
support the shutdown, regardless of what union leaders say.

Occupy groups in cities such as Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, Portland, Ore., Tacoma, Wash., Seattle, Anchorage and Vancouver plan to blockade their local ports.

But under the terms of the ILWU contract, West Coast longshoremen cannot simply walk off the job en masse to support the shutdown, though individual union members can choose to exercise their First Amendment rights and not show up at the hiring hall that day.

From its roots in the San Francisco general strike, the ILWU has a strong history of taking a stand on issues of the day, from civil rights to the Iraq War to apartheid in South Africa. One union member cited that tradition in calling for members to support the shutdown.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

| DOW | S&P | NASDAQ |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| 11,997.70 | 1,234.34 | 2,596.38 |
| -198.67 | -26.66 | -52.83 |
| -1.63% | -2.11% | -1.99% |

EXCHANGE RATES

| In U.S. dollar terms | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------------------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 0.9885 | Hong Kong Dollar | 7.7804 |
| British Pound | 0.6404 | Indian Rupee | 52.1813 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.0243 | Indonesian Rupiah | 9095 |
| Chinese Yuan | 6.3614 | Japanese Yen | 77.6133 |
| Euro | 0.75 | Malaysian Ringgit | 3.1543 |
| | | New Zealand Dollar | 1.3009 |
| | | Philippine Peso | 43.555 |
| | | Singapore Dollar | 1.2988 |
| | | South Korean Won | 1144.95 |
| | | Swiss Franc | 0.9259 |
| | | Taiwan Dollar | 30.222 |
| | | Thailand Baht | 30.875 |

Nation

Va. Tech gunman kills officer, later found dead

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—A gunman killed a police officer in a Virginia Tech parking lot Thursday and was found dead nearby in a baffling attack that sent shudders through the campus nearly five years after it was the scene of the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history.

The shooting took place on the same day Virginia Tech officials were in Washington, fighting a government fine over their alleged mishandling of the 2007 bloodbath. Before it

became clear that the gunman in Thursday's attack was dead, the school applied the lessons learned during the last tragedy, locking down the campus and using a high-tech alert system to warn students and faculty members to stay indoors.

The officer was killed after pulling a driver over in a traffic stop. The gunman—who was not involved in the traffic stop—walked into the parking lot and shot the officer, Sgt. Robert Carpentieri said. Police wouldn't talk about a motive.

A law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity confirmed the gunman was dead, but wouldn't say how.

It appeared the gunman died about a quarter-mile away from the traffic stop, in another school parking lot, where officials said a man was found dead with a gun nearby. While police at a news conference wouldn't confirm the second body was the gunman, Carpentieri said "you can kind of read between the lines." The shooting prompted a lockdown that lasted for

about four hours.

"Today, tragedy again struck Virginia Tech," said university president Charles Steger. "Our hearts are broken again."

The officer had served on the campus police force for four years. State police were still in-

vestigating whether he had been specifically targeted. Students were preparing for exams were suddenly told to hunker down. Heavily armed officers walked around campus as caravans of SWAT vehicles and other police cars with emergency lights flashing patrolled nearby.

"A lot of people, especially toward the beginning were scared," said Jared Brumfield, a 19-year-old freshman from Culpeper, Va., who was locked in the Squires Student Center since around 1:30 p.m.

The university sent updates about every 30 minutes, regardless of whether they had any new information, school spokesman Mark Owczarski said.

"It's crazy that someone would go and do something like that with all the stuff that happened in 2007," said Corey Smith, a 19-year-old sophomore

from Mechanicsville, Va., who was headed to a dining hall near the site of one of the shootings.

He told The Associated Press that he stayed inside after seeing the alerts from the school. "It's just weird to think about why someone would do something like this when the school's had so many problems," Smith said.

Harry White, 20, a junior physics major, said he was in line for a sandwich at a restaurant in a campus building when he received the text message alert.

White said he didn't panic, thinking instead about a false alarm about a possible gunman that locked down the campus in August. White used an indoor walkway to go to a computer lab in an adjacent building, where he checked news reports.

"I decided to just check to see how serious it was. I saw it's actually someone shooting someone, not something false, something that looks like a gun," White said.



As day turned to night police continue to investigate the scene where Virginia Tech police officer Deriek W. Crouse, 39, was killed on Thursday December 8, 2011 in Blacksburg, Va.

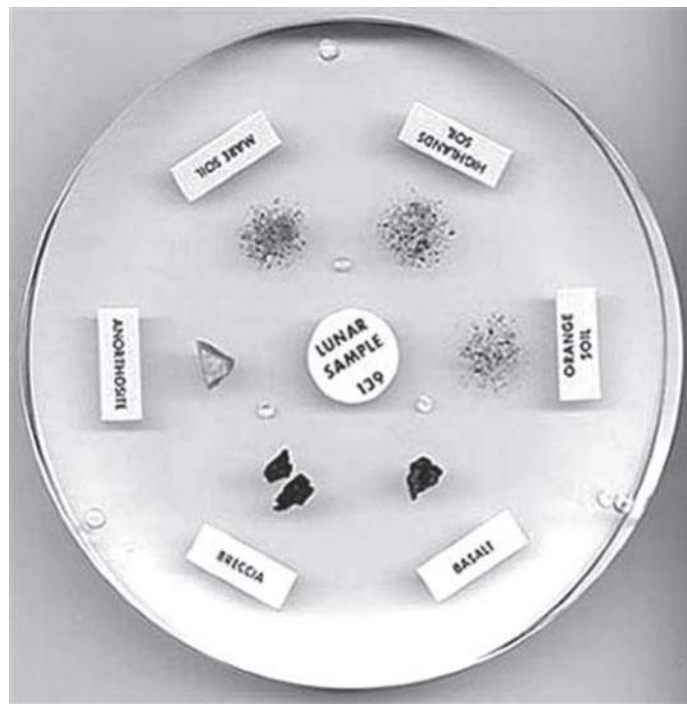
The misplaced stuff: NASA loses moon, space rocks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Astronauts may have had the "right stuff" to go to the moon, but when it comes to keeping track of what they brought back, NASA seems to have misplaced some of that stuff.

In a report issued by the agency's Inspector General on Thursday, NASA concedes that more than 500 pieces of moon rocks, meteorites, comet chunks and other space material were stolen or have been missing since 1970. That includes 218 moon samples that were stolen and later returned and about two dozen moon rocks and chunks of lunar soil that were reported lost last year.

NASA, which has loaned more than 26,000 samples, needs to keep better track of what's sent to researchers and museums, the report said. The lack of sufficient controls "increases the risk that these unique resources may be lost," the report concluded.

After last year's case of a missing moon sample loaned to a Delaware astronomical observatory—which the astronomers there claimed they returned to NASA—the agency's inspector general decided to audit about one quarter of the thousands of samples of moon rocks, lunar dust, mete-



This undated handout photo provided by NASA shows a six-inch lunar sample disk containing three rock pieces and three clumps of lunar dirt, similar to the one shown here, went missing after it was loaned to a Delaware observatory in 1978.

orites, and other space material that the agency loaned.

Of those cases, 19 percent of the researchers either couldn't account for the samples or they had material that NASA records indicated had been destroyed or loaned to someone else. That included 22 meteorites and 2 comet samples from a daring mission that grabbed

comet chunks.

In two cases, one researcher still had nine lunar samples he borrowed 35 years ago and another had 10 chunks of meteorites he kept for 14 years. Neither had ever worked on them. Another researcher had 36 moon samples and kept them for 16 years after he had finished his research.

More drivers texting at wheel, despite state bans

WASHINGTON (AP)—For all the criticism and new legal bans, texting by drivers just keeps increasing, especially among younger motorists.

About half of American drivers between 21 and 24 say they've thumbed messages or emailed from the driver's seat. And what's more, many drivers don't think it's dangerous when they do it—only when others do.

A national survey, the first government study of its kind on distracted driving, and other data released Thursday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration underscore the difficulty authorities face in discouraging texting and cellphone talking while driving.

At any given moment last year on America's streets and highways, nearly one in every 100 car drivers was texting, emailing, surfing the Web or otherwise using a hand-held electronic device, the safety administration said. And those activities spiked 50 percent over

the previous year, even as states rush to ban the practices.

Last month, Pennsylvania became the 35th state to forbid texting while driving.

In 2010 there were an estimated 3,092 deaths in crashes affected by a wide range of driver distractions, from eating meals to thumbing email, the safety administration said. That number was derived using a new methodology aimed at getting a more precise picture of distracted driving deaths and can't be compared to tallies from previous years, officials said.

The agency also takes an annual snapshot of drivers' behavior behind the wheel by staking out intersections to count people using cellphones and other devices, as well as other distracting behavior.

While electronic gadgets are in ever greater use by drivers, motorists are deeply conflicted about it, a NHTSA survey of over 6,000 drivers found.

Most said they would answer a cellphone call while driving

and continue to drive after answering. And nearly two of 10 acknowledged sending texts or emails from behind the wheel. That spiked up to half of drivers 21 to 24 years old.

More than half of drivers said making a cellphone call made no difference to their driving performance, and a quarter said texting or emailing made no difference. But 90 percent said that when they are passengers they feel very unsafe if the driver is texting or emailing.

Indeed, big majorities of drivers surveyed support bans on hand-held cellphone use and texting while driving—71 percent and 94 percent, respectively. And most said they want people who violate the bans to be punished with fines of \$100 or more. Almost a quarter supported fines in the \$200 to \$499 range.

"Everyone thinks he or she is an above average driver—it's all the nuts out there who need educating," said Russ Rader, a spokesman for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.



ACROSS THE NATION

Police find 2 bodies in burned-out Wash. home

WASHOUGAL, Wash. (AP)—Police said Thursday they found two bodies in the rubble of a house that burned to the ground as a man inside shot multiple rounds from rifles and handguns for 90 minutes and kept fire crews at bay. Clark County sheriff's Sgt. Kevin Allais said there was no information yet about the gender or identities of the bodies recovered from the southwest Washington home. Neighbors

said a man, his wife and another woman lived in the home. Nobody has reported seeing them since the Wednesday morning fire.

2nd child shot by mom in Texas welfare office dies

MCALLEN, Texas (AP)—A 10-year-old son of a woman who shot her two children and then killed herself during a police standoff at a Texas welfare office died on Thursday, a day after his sister succumbed

to her wounds. Timothy Grimmer died Thursday evening at a San Antonio hospital after he was removed from life support, Laredo police investigator Joe Baeza said. His sister Ramie, 12, who authorities say was also shot by mother Rachelle Grimmer, died Wednesday night at the same hospital. Their father, Dale Grimmer, spent time at his son's bedside Thursday before consulting with doctors and deciding to pull Timothy off of life support, said Mary Lee Shepherd, the children's grandmother.

Asia

China's pollution data shrouded in official fog

BEIJING (AP)—Armed with a device that looks like an old transistor radio, some Beijing residents are recording pollution levels and posting them online. It's an act that borders on subversion.

The government keeps secret all data on the fine particles that shroud China's capital in a health-threatening smog most days. But as they grow more prosperous, Chinese are demanding the right to know what the government does not tell them: just how polluted their city is.

"If people know what their air is like, they are more likely to take action," said Wang Qiuxia, a researcher at local environment group Green Beagle, who shows interested residents how to test pollution on a locally made monitoring machine.

Beijing is frequently cloaked in yellow haze. Buildings a couple of blocks away are barely visible. Still, Beijing's official air quality index records the pollution as "light"—a reading at odds with what many people experience.

A reason for the discrepancy is that the official index does not include the fine particles Wang's group is tracking, PM2.5. Sometimes seen as soot or smoke, PM2.5 is tiny particulate matter—less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter or approximately 1/30th the average width of a human hair—that can result from the burning of fuels in vehicles, power plants and agriculture.

Government agencies did not comment for this report. Experts

say the government measures are reducing pollution. The Ministry of Environmental Protection has announced plans to factor PM2.5 into new air quality standards, beyond the coarser PM10 already measured, but not until 2016. One environmental official was quoted by state media as saying conditions were "not ripe" for the tougher standard as many places would fail.

"The government always has this worry that if they tell the truth, there will be social unrest. But the reality is the reality. Whether you tell the public or not, the danger is still out there," said Feng Yongfeng, a journalist and founder of Green Beagle, whose mission is to raise awareness of environmental problems and help improve China's environment.

What matters now, Feng said, is for people to conduct their own testing "and see the truth right now." Green Beagle is recruiting people around the city to test the air in their homes, neighborhoods, offices and public spaces. It lends the sole monitoring device it possesses for up to a week.

Some residents even set it whirling in the supermarket. In return for lending the PM2.5 detector, Green Beagle gets the readings and posts them on their website.

While the pollution choking China is testament to the country's explosive growth over the last 20 years, so is the current call for greater government transparency—and cleaner air. A new middle class that is increasingly well-traveled and wired to the Internet is turning its attention to quality of life and demanding of



In this photo taken on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, Tan Liang, a resident of Beijing, takes readings on a PM2.5 detector outside his residential compound in Beijing, China.

ficial accountability.

"Firstly, people on low incomes care about food and clothing. Once food and clothing is no longer a problem, they start to care about the environment and health. Especially the air," said Wang, 23, the Green Beagle activist.

Chinese authorities have squared off against this more assertive middle class on matters ranging from computer censorship to contaminated milk. In

August, 12,000 residents in the wealthy northeastern port city of Dalian demonstrated against a chemical plant thought to be unsafe, and the government promised to relocate the plant.

While posting pollution data on the Internet is not specifically illegal, challenging the government can be considered subversive in China where the government zealously guards data it considers sensitive. In the past, people have been jailed for

leaking government economic data ahead of the release date.

The battle over Beijing's air seemed to take off this fall amid a run of smog-choked days. Pan Shiyi, a rich celebrity property developer who symbolizes middle-class aspirations, took to China's version of Twitter to repost readings, including PM2.5, from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing that measures air quality from a monitor on its roof and publishes them online every hour.

The U.S. Embassy air quality readings are often bleaker than the official measure. From noon Sunday to noon Monday—during which hundreds of flights were canceled because of poor visibility at Beijing's airport—embassy readings went from "hazardous" to "beyond index" as pollution exceeded the scale used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Beijing's Environmental Protection Bureau said pollution was light.

ASIA BRIEFS

India police charge Tibet holy man in money probe

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—Indian authorities have filed charges against Tibetan Buddhism's third most important leader following an investigation into \$1.35 million in cash discovered at his headquarters in northern India, police said Thursday. The money was found last January during a police raid on the Karmapa's monastery. It was in nearly two dozen currencies, and the Karmapa's aides said it had been donated by his followers, who came from all over the world. But the amount of cash, which included a large sum of Chinese yuan, concerned police, who said the sums were too large to be merely from donations.

5 South Korean railway workers killed by train

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Officials say five South Korean railway workers have been killed by a train in the port city of Incheon. Firefighter Kim Dae-il says the workers were hit by the train early Friday as they replaced track parts in preparation for winter. Kim says another worker was seriously injured. Kim says officials are investigating the cause of the accident.

Asia commission again puts off Mekong dam decision

BANGKOK (AP)—Four Southeast Asian nations on Thursday again postponed a decision on Laos' plan to build the first dam across the Mekong River's mainstream amid a barrage of opposition from neighboring countries and environmental groups. The Mekong River Commission, a regional management forum, said the countries would approach Japan and international agencies to further study the impacts of the proposed \$3.5 billion Xayaburi dam. The commission's decisions are not binding, and there are signs that Laos is starting preparations for the project.

Afghan pass shows struggle of handover

GULRUDDIN OUTPOST, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. forces scored a strategic victory against the Taliban four months ago when they seized a mountain pass that had enabled suicide bombers to make their way from Pakistan to the Afghan capital, Kabul.

But as American troops draw down in the war, it will fall on Afghan soldiers and police to hold this dirt road in eastern Afghanistan's Taba Kakar mountains. So far, the signs are not encouraging.

The district police chief was a drug addict who was fired at the end of November only after he punched a U.S. military translator, according to American soldiers. He then sold or stole everything from electronics to teacups, even removing the batteries from the remote control for the heating unit supplied by the Americans.

The Afghan soldiers aren't much help either. Westerners working in the area have found them to be unmotivated and undependable. The soldiers go

out on few patrols and are mistrusted by the local population because most are from a different ethnic group.

The U.S. plans to hand over more and more volatile areas like Gulruddin before the end of 2014, when the Afghans are expected to oversee security nationwide. If the Afghan government cannot hold these key gateways, insecurity could quickly spread.

At Gulruddin, that could come as early as next summer. After the snows melt and the

traditional fighting season begins, the Afghans may be asked to hold the pass with a lot less help from the Americans.

The U.S. force in Afghanistan is already shrinking, and President Barack Obama has pledged to pull out 33,000 American troops by the end of 2012. That's a third of those deployed in the country at the peak of the U.S. military presence in June.

As recently as June, the Gulruddin area of Paktika province was an insurgent sanctuary.

NATO fuel tankers set ablaze in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Assailants torched more than 20 tankers in Pakistan carrying fuel for U.S. and NATO troops in neighboring Afghanistan on Thursday, in the first reported attack since Islamabad closed the border to protest coalition airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani troops last month.

Several hundred trucks have been stranded at poorly guarded terminals around the country as

they wait for Pakistan to reopen its two border crossings into Afghanistan. Around 40 percent of the non-lethal supplies for U.S.-led troops in landlocked Afghanistan travel across Pakistani soil.

Islamabad closed both frontier crossings into Afghanistan on Nov. 26, hours after airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition killed 24 Pakistani troops on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. U.S. and NATO officials have said

the incident was a mistake, and have pledged to investigate.

Police officer Hamid Shakil says unknown men fired rockets at a terminal for the tankers close to the southwestern city of Quetta. He said at least 23 tankers were set ablaze. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Last year, Islamabad temporarily closed one of its Afghan crossings to NATO supplies after U.S. helicopters accidentally

killed two Pakistani soldiers. Suspected militants or criminals took advantage of the impasse to launch many attacks against stranded or rerouted trucks carrying NATO supplies.

The deadly airstrikes at the border sent already tense relations between Pakistan and the United States to new lows, threatening Islamabad's cooperation in helping negotiate an end to the Afghan war.

World

European Union weighs greater unity to save euro

BRUSSELS (AP)—European leaders were wrestling Thursday over how much of their sovereignty they are willing to give up in a desperate attempt to save the ambitious project of continental unity that grew from the ashes of World War II.

At stake at the summit in Brussels not only is the future of the euro, but also the stability of the global financial system and the balance of power in Europe.

To convince financial markets that Europe's economy-crushing debt crisis is a one-time event, countries will have to give up significant powers, such as some decisions on borrowing and spending, to a central authority.

President Nicolas Sarkozy and Chancellor Angela Merkel want to convince the other 15 eurozone leaders to agree to a plan that would require their governments to balance their budgets and accept automatic sanctions if they don't.

At the same time, the currency bloc's largest economies are being pushed to commit more money to boost the eurozone's firewalls as the crisis threatens to pull down Italy and Spain.

The overall plan must be good enough to convince the European Central Bank to intervene in the government bond markets in a manner large enough to stop the panic there, said Paul De Grauwe, an economics professor and EU expert at the Catholic University of Leuven, in Belgium.

The president of the ECB said the bank currently has no plan to increase the scale of its bond interventions, which could



British Prime Minister David Cameron speaks during a media conference at an EU summit in Brussels on Friday, Dec. 9, 2011.

keep down the borrowing costs of weak countries like Italy and Spain, as markets had been hoping. Stocks and the euro fell, while the borrowing rates for Italy and Spain skyrocketed.

ECB chief Mario Draghi had hinted last week that if governments agree to tighter budget controls, the central bank might step up support. Analysts said his comments on Thursday served to keep pressure on politicians to reach a deal.

Merkel and Sarkozy want to enshrine the tougher budget oversight in a treaty, either by

changing the existing EU treaty or creating a new one for the 17 eurozone nations that others could opt in to.

An EU official said that in the first hours of the summit, leaders agreed that national debt brakes should limit deficits before debt and interest payments to 0.5 percent of annual economic output. The official was speaking on condition of anonymity because the talks were ongoing.

The 0.5 percent limit, which could only be exceeded in exceptional situations or to counteract a recession, is stricter than

the 3 percent cap set out in current EU law, although the 3 percent also includes interest and debt payments.

"Words alone are not believed anymore because too often we did not live up to our words," Merkel told a rally of fellow European conservatives in Marseille, France, ahead of the summit.

But huge divisions remain.

Some countries resist the idea of giving up some of their control over national budgets. Furthermore, the 10 EU countries that don't use the euro are

worried about being left out of important decision-making if eurozone countries adopt a new treaty of their own.

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and some smaller countries that have stuck to the budget rules in the past, meanwhile, are pushing for much more intrusive powers for European institutions to essentially take over wayward states' fiscal policies that even France and Germany are unlikely to accept.

At the same time, the Germans are still opposing an attempt to strengthen the eurozone's crisis firewall.

An early draft of conclusions for the summit, which was seen by The Associated Press, says that a permanent euro500 billion (\$670 billion) bailout fund, which could come into force as soon as July, should not be diminished by loans already given out by the bloc's existing rescue fund.

Those commitments, which already include the bailouts for Ireland and Portugal, could reach around euro200 billion once a second rescue for Greece and loans to other countries to recapitalize banks have been accounted for.

In addition, Van Rompuy and several other euro states are pushing for greater help from the International Monetary Fund. Some European leaders have said that their national central banks could lend money to the IMF, which could act as a backstop for financially weak eurozone countries.

An EU diplomat, speaking on

condition of anonymity before the summit, said eurozone leaders are likely to agree to give the IMF euro150 billion (\$200 billion) in bilateral loans to use as a firewall in the debt crisis.

But officials from other countries dampened expectations that that deal could be finalized by Friday. The draft conclusions include a paragraph on increasing IMF resources, but left open the amount.

The money would come from the central banks of the 17 euro nations, not governments, which are already highly indebted.

The diplomat added that eurozone leaders hoped non-eurozone countries would contribute an extra euro50 billion (\$67 billion).

For France and Germany, however, the primary goal of the summit is changing the EU treaty in an attempt to make sure that no other debt crisis can ever happen again. If necessary, they say, the 17-country eurozone could create its own treaty, which other willing nations could join.

Such a more roundabout solution may be necessary because several non-euro countries—including the U.K. and Sweden—have warned that they may block treaty changes.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has said he will defend his country's interests at the summit and demand safeguards if asked to amend the EU treaty. Cameron wants concessions to protect London's role as a global financial center—a demand that is being frowned upon by France and Germany.

Palestinians' statehood bid part of Christmas

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)—At Christmas time the world looks to Jesus' traditional birthplace of Bethlehem, and this year the Palestinians hope to use some of that attention to boost their quest for independence.

They're trying to be subtle about it, with just a hint of politics in this year's Christmas slogan, "Palestine celebrating hope," a veiled reference to their bid this fall to win U.N. recognition of a Palestinian state.

Organizers say they didn't want to be overtly political for fear of putting off foreign pilgrims in search of a religious experience. Some 90,000 for-

eign visitors are expected to throng the Church of the Nativity and adjacent Manger Square in December, including 50,000 during Christmas week.

"We want to use this opportunity to convey a message to the world that we have hope of having our own independent state and we need the international support for that," said Palestinian Tourism Minister Khouloud Daibes. "Since Christmas is a religious occasion, we can't use direct political slogans."

Volunteers will distribute postcards with the Christmas motto in the courtyard of the Church of the Nativity, built

over the grotto where tradition says Jesus was born. Visitors can then mail them at the Manger Square post office, using Palestinian stamps, another symbol of the state in the making.

Members of a tour group from Britain and Canada heading into the Nativity church Tuesday had mixed feelings. Some, like 37-year-old pilot Mario Savian from Ontario, said they didn't like injecting politics into Christmas.

But Catherine Meecham, 62, a retired health worker from Scotland, said there was a legitimate connection because Christmas is a time to pray for peace. "I want

to see people in Palestine find a peaceful solution," she said.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said the cause of peace would be better served by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas resuming negotiations with Israel. "We hope that the Palestinians will use the holiday season as a time to think ... and that ultimately they will soon expeditiously return to peace talks," he said.

Abbas has said he won't negotiate unless Israel halts construction for Jews on occupied lands the Palestinians want for their state, arguing settlement growth pre-empts the outcome of talks.

French TV shows Strauss-Kahn surveillance videos

PARIS (AP)—Surveillance videos publicly aired for the first time Thursday show Dominique Strauss-Kahn leisurely checking out of a New York hotel where he was accused of committing sexual assault and show his accuser appearing to act out the alleged attack.

It was not immediately clear how France's BFM television acquired the minutes-long seg-

ments. The clips were the basis of recent news reports suggesting Strauss-Kahn might have been the target of a political plot but had not previously been publicly broadcast. Strauss-Kahn was initially charged with attempted rape after a hotel maid, Nafissatou Diallo, alleged he attacked her and forced her to perform oral sex. New York prosecutors dropped the charges after they

said they lost confidence in Diallo, who has filed a civil case.

In the clips, Strauss-Kahn—the former head of the International Monetary Fund—exits an elevator, pays his bill and gets in a cab. BFM said those images were filmed about 20 minutes after the alleged May 14 assault. Strauss-Kahn, wearing a dark coat and wheeling a suitcase, does not appear hurried or nervous.

A separate segment BFM said was filmed about 40 minutes after the alleged attack shows Diallo slumped against a wall in a corridor reserved for hotel staff. The images are heavily pixelated, and it's impossible to make out the expression on her face.

At one point, she appears to act out the attack, grabbing her own breast and pursuing a colleague, her arms outstretched.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kabila likely the winner of Congo election

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—After days of tension in Congo's capital as the nation awaits election results, traffic began to flow once more, women selling cassava leaves took up their usual positions on the sides of roads and a few international airlines allowed their planes to resume flights to Kinshasa on Thursday. But anxiety remained high that the Central African nation stretching over a territory as large as Western Europe would descend into violence, with supporters of opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi vowing to take to the streets if President Joseph Kabila is declared the winner.

Church confirms pope to visit Cuba in spring

HAVANA (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI will visit Communist-run Cuba this spring, a senior Roman Catholic Church official said Thursday, the first trip by a pontiff since John Paul II's historic tour in 1998. The exact date of the trip, which coincides with the 400th anniversary of Cuba's patron saint, will be announced in Rome early next week, according to Monsignor Jose Felix Perez, executive secretary of the Cuban Bishops Conference. "It will be a moment for energizing the faith in Cuba. It will give strength and vigor to the faith in Cuba," he said. "The visit should be one of peace and reconciliation."

Mudslide collapses on bus in Colombia, 6 dead

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A hillside loosened by heavy rains collapsed on a bus, killing five adults and a boy, Colombian officials said Thursday. One of the victims managed to call for help by cellphone and told relatives she was trapped before she died, said Cesar Uruena, rescue director for the Colombian Red Cross. The five other victims of the accident Wednesday night included a police officer and the bus driver and his young son, Uruena said.

Youngstyle

For pet-owners, holiday plans revolve around pets

By SUE MANNING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dexter's social calendar this holiday season is chock-full of travel plans, party invites, new clothes, special meals and trips to see Santa Claus.

Highlights for the 3-year-old cocker spaniel and his owner Carol Bryant, of Forty Fort, Pa., include a couple of car trips to look at light displays. A friend drives so Bryant can hold Dexter in the passenger seat as they drive by the lighted homes. "He especially likes the animation and wags his tail," she said.

Like a lot of pet owners, Bryant makes her holiday plans around her dog.

Bryant, the editorial, social media and public relations director for Fido Friendly Magazine, takes photos galore of Dexter in his holiday finest and uses them on Facebook, Twitter, her blog, and in emails to friends and Christmas cards. Their shopping sprees have already begun. Dexter will host a party. His best friend, a golden cocker named Bailey, will host a party. There will be presents to and from Dexter under the Christmas tree. He knows which ones are his and does his own unwrapping.

Bryant hung Dexter's personalized stocking with care. He'll spend Christmas Eve in pajamas and a bathrobe with ducks on it. He will look his brown-and-white best because of a holiday trip to the groomer, and he will dine on lean boiled turkey on Christmas Day.

A recent AP-Petside.com poll found that just over half of American pet owners will buy gifts for their pets this holiday season, and they'll spend an average of \$46 on their animals, with toys and treats topping the list. Overall spending in the pet industry (including food, supplies, veterinary care, grooming, boarding and pet sitting) was just over \$48 billion in 2010, with over \$50 billion in spending projected for 2011, according to the American Pet Products Association.

"It seems many pet owners have accepted that their pets are like children and they enjoy indulging their pet more than ever. It is easier for pet owners to spend on their pets than other relationships in their lives because pets have no expectations," Bob Vetere, president of the American Pet Products Association, said earlier this year.

The Associated Press asked a couple of pet lifestyle experts to describe ways people might celebrate the holiday season with their pets. Some of the answers: Buy your parrot a pinata full of dried fruit. Put a tiny video camera around your cat's neck and let it record some Christmas memories. Or build a holiday dinner around your dog's gluten-free needs.

Some pet stores and shelters host photo fundraisers where you can purchase a picture of your pet in Santa's lap. And photographers who specialize in pets can bring backdrops and lights to your home to take professional shots of your pet and family for keepsakes and cards, Bryant said.



In this Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, photo courtesy of Diane Bondareff for PetSmart, Gus, an English Bulldog, gets a photo with Santa at PetSmart's annual Santa Claws event in New York.



In this Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, photo courtesy of Diane Bondareff for PetSmart, Maci, an American Staffordshire Terrier puppy, participates in PetSmart's annual Santa Claws event in New York.

Private chefs can teach you to create menus for human families based on a dog's diet needs, said Jessica Vogelsang, a San Diego veterinarian and author of pawcurious.com. Vogelsang ate ground chicken with cheese and stuffed squash at a recent demonstration by chef Tasha Ardan from foxytreats.com. Or you can include goodies pets can eat—like peanut butter treats—in your holiday baking.

You might want to stock up on breath freshener for pets for this idea from Sandy Robins, an Irvine-based lifestyle consultant for Petco Animal Supplies Inc.: "If you can kiss your two-legged family members under the mistletoe, you can kiss your four-legged family members." Just don't let pets nibble on the mistletoe; it can cause gastrointestinal upsets.

Pets may also be allergic to ingredients in human perfumes, air fresheners, oils and candles, Robins said, but there are pet-friendly versions of some scented products. People who use those might even find themselves wheezing less, she said, because "what's good for pets is good for people."

There is no must-have pet gift this year, but one of the most popular gifts last year was the Snuggie for pets, Robins said, and this year, she expects pajamas will be big sellers. Another trend: Gifts for the senior set—meaning pets over age 7—including infrared massagers and chew toys for those short on teeth, Robins said.

You can also buy a video cam that fits on a collar and let the cat or dog take home movies by the Christmas tree, though Robins acknowledged it might take some serious editing to get to the good stuff.

Petfinder.com is holding its third annual "Foster a Lonely Pet for the Holidays" campaign, hoping to give pets from 1,500 shelters a home stay between Christmas Eve and New Year's. Meanwhile, the goal of the Iams Home 4 the Holidays (IH4TH) drive this year is 1.5 million pet adoptions worldwide.

Finally, there is an endless variety of pet-themed clothing, housewares and accessories for the humans in a dog's life. For bakers, cake, cookie and candy pans come in the shape of bones, dog houses and fire hydrants. Tiffany & Co. sells a sterling silver dog bone charm for a bracelet.

"The apparel and accessory industry is recognizing that not all pet owners want embroidered cardigans or socks," Vogelsang said.

March of the penguins

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

If you have seen the popular 2005 documentary "March of the Penguins," you are aware of the harsh conditions under which emperor penguins survive.

The largest of the 17 species of penguins—they can grow up to 45 inches in height—emperors spend their entire lives in the Antarctic in the harshest winter weather you can imagine.

The majestic birds fight the cold by gathering together in large groups and taking turns moving from the inside of the large clump of birds where it's warm, to the outside where they face the full force of blinding winter wind and ice storms.

That's only one of the tricks the penguins have learned to help them adapt in the climate of the Southern Hemisphere.

The emperor, a bird that cannot fly, breeds in the winter after a courtship of several weeks. The female will lay one solitary egg, then promptly abandon it to its father's care. She goes out to the open sea to feed, often traveling up to 50 miles across the ice before reaching her destination.

The male penguin takes his role in the care of the egg very seriously, balancing it on his feet and covering it with a brood pouch, a warm layer of feathered skin. He will stand in place for more than two months protecting the egg.

When the mother returns, she brings food for the newly hatched chick and the dad makes the long trek to the sea for food.

I made this cute penguin craft using directions supplied by Pat Catan's event and craft coordinator, Karen Corvington.

Supplies you will need:

- 1 jumbo clothespin, available from a craft store.
- Acrylic paint in black, white, orange and red.
- Red felt scraps.
- 1-inch wide sponge brush and a fine paintbrush for details
- Thick, white glue.
- Ribbon.
- Ruler.
- Pencil.

Cut a 4-inch by 6-inch rectangle of red felt. Turn one of the long edges up about a half inch and wrap the felt around the top of the closed end of the clothespin. Glue the short ends of the felt together to make a tube.

Use a pencil to draw half an oval above the metal bar on one of the wide sides of the clothespin.

Use a ruler to draw lines from the end of the oval on both sides down to the corners of the bottom of the clothespin. The lines should taper a bit, from about an eighth of an inch at the bottom to about one-quarter inch at the top.

Paint inside the oval and the edge lines with white paint and set aside to dry.

When the white paint is dry, carefully paint the rest of the clothespin black.

For the scarf, cut a strip of felt about 10 inches long and a half-inch wide. Cut fringe on each end of the strip. Set aside.

Wrap a piece of ribbon around the stocking cap about a half-inch under the top of the felt.

Dip the rounded end of the paintbrush into black paint and dab it on the white face for eyes. Add a small orange beak.

Paint two small, red bumps on the bottom of the clothespin for feet. Wrap the scarf under the face.

Place the hat on top of the penguin's head.

Make a cute penguin craft using one jumbo clothespin.



MCT

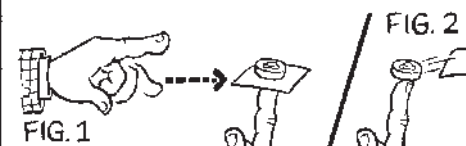
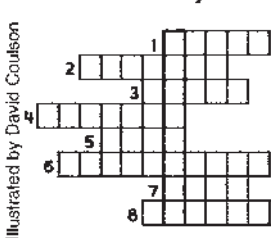
A NEAT FEAT OF JUGGLING!

FIG. 1
Place a nickel in the center of a small piece of cardboard and balance it on the tip of your forefinger (Fig. 1).

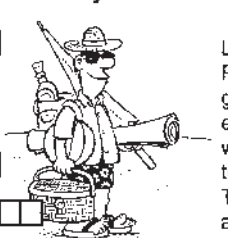
Now try snapping the cardboard away with the fingers of your other hand, leaving the coin still balanced on your finger (Fig. 2).

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson



A WINTER PICNIC!
Let's visit the folks in Florida. In our puzzle grid, there is room for eight picnic-related words. Below are hints to get you started. There is a dark frame around one of the columns in the grid. If you correctly name all of the words asked for, the letters in this frame, top to bottom, will spell out what you don't want on the way to a picnic.



DOODLE PICS! The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.



THE "L" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the L's. Here are some hints from the top down.

1. Roman numeral 50.
2. A musical tone.
3. A fermented beverage.
4. Not imaginary.
5. Before the due date.
6. Why vampires hate Buffy.
7. Sports TV loves them.
8. Fresh water eels.



1. Uninvited guests.
2. Good in or out of a sandwich.
3. Can include almost anything good to eat.
4. Serves as a table.
5. Goes great with hard-boiled eggs.
6. Usually the main course.
7. Can ruin your fun.
8. A great picnic drink.

Answers: 1. Files. 2. Pickles. 3. Salad. 4. Blanket. 5. Salt. 6. Sandwiches. 7. Rain. 8. Lemonade. What you don't want on the way to a picnic is a "flat tire."

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was megalomaniacal French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte who made the following sage observation: "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."

■ Orchids are lovely flowers, and many people dedicate years to growing them and finding rare specimens. If you're like most people, though, you probably don't realize that the word orchid comes from the Greek word "orchis," which means "testicle."

■ Records show that the town of Helena, Montana, had more millionaires per capita than any other city in the world—way back in 1888.

■ In the early 1970s, a British plumber named John Hancock replaced an antique toilet in the home of John Lennon, then kept the old toilet for the rest of his life. In 2010, after Hancock's death, his heirs put it up for auction. Even the auction house was surprised when the former Beatle's throne fetched a whopping \$14,740.

■ When you're in an unpopulated area and gaze up at the night sky, it's easy to be overwhelmed by the profusion of stars. But what's truly overwhelming is this: All the stars that are visible from Earth represent only 0.000000000000001 percent of all the stars in the known universe.

■ You may not be aware of this, but there is a new fad that is catching on among some groups across the country: tall biking. Hobbyists construct bicycles with normal-sized front and rear wheels, but with frames and seats that extend anywhere from 6 to 10 feet off the ground. Some riders actually use these bikes to joust, using lances made out of PVC pipe and foam rubber. It's unclear, however, exactly how the riders mount their steeds.

Thought for the Day: "If you wish to be loved, show more of your faults than your virtues."—Edward Bulwer-Lytton

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MAGIC MAZE • CANYONS

S J G D A X U R O L J G D A X
V S P N H N K I F C A X V S Q
O L J H O A E C O W A X A R V
T R P N R G L J O P H F E K D
B Y X V S O T Z R P G V M I D
C O M K E L I M E N I N I N I
O G E D S N L B Z R Y A A G X
P W U T H R Q E H O L R W S N
P L J S O I G S I L G F A D T
E C A R E V I R A R A T Y H X
R E S A R F W V V T A C L O C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Charyn Grand Logan Tsangpo
Colca Hells Nine Mile Valla
Fish River Horseshoe Shnizow Waimea
Fraser Kings Tara River

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

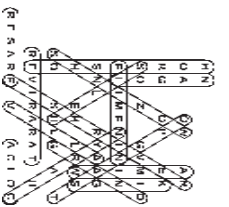
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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



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GO FIGURE ANSWER

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Outing a sore spot for nosey dog

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: This weekend I took my dog "Marty," a dachshund-beagle mix, out to some property, where she sniffed and sniffed and dug and sniffed and sniffed. I think she had her nose buried in the rocky soil for so long that she gave herself a rather large (maybe the size of a nickel) blister on her upper lip. It's not puffy—just a raw patch under her nose, and she licks at it. I saw something saying that canola oil or olive oil might help chapped lips, but this seems like a larger area. Any tips?—Matt P., via email



medicine to reduce any discomfort and thereby reduce her licking of the area so it can heal faster.

If it is indeed just a raw patch caused by friction, the area should heal up within a few days. But do keep a close eye on it: If the patch looks like its getting infected or otherwise changes for the worse, take Marty to the vet right away.

■■■

Send your question or tip to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Home-cleaning tips for the holidays

"It's dirty work, but someone has to do it!" That has been my catchy refrain the past few months while partnering with Scrubbing Bubbles to reveal its fascinating Dirty Work Index data on women's attitudes and feelings on cleaning their homes. Did you know that 51 percent of women actually avoid going into someone else's bathroom? I also was surprised to learn that three out of four women say that the cleanliness of their homes speaks volumes about them personally, and 83 percent are prompted to clean if they're hosting a party or guests in their home. That can put a lot of pressure on one person, especially this time of year!

Now that we're in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, with guests coming and going in our homes, here are some practical and easy cleaning strategies for busy families:

1. Start with the front door. To keep dirt and grime out of the house before it gets tracked in, remind kids to leave their boots, shoes, and wet and muddy winter gear at the entryway. When guests pop by, I like to add a bit of humor and suggest that they do the "Cha, Cha, Cha" on the entry mat when they arrive. After a few steps, wiggles and laughs, their shoes are clean before they step inside.

2. Think of cleaning as exercise. It can be hard to get everything you want done during these busy days, so make cleaning do double duty when you can't squeeze in time at the gym. An active 30 minutes of cleaning can get the blood pumping and heart racing. Add music to the mix, and it will be done before you know it.

3. Get kids to help. You don't have to do all the tasks alone, especially

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

kid-friendly jobs like shaking rugs, taking out the trash and cleaning the bathroom mirrors.

4. Clear the clutter. Just before guests arrive at a dinner party, wash and put away mixing bowls and utensils, and be sure the counters are sparkling clean. A clutter-free kitchen makes you feel organized and relaxed.

5. Save the night with candlelight. Perfection isn't everything. If you throw a last-minute get-together, don't worry about dusting every corner. Simply dim lamps and light candles. There is something about candlelight that makes everything glow.

6. Holiday helpers ring in the new year. When packing holiday decorations in boxes until next year, make it a family affair. Laugh together, tell stories and share cups of cocoa while you get another cleanup job done!

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

■■■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Distributed by King Features Synd.

Good Housekeeping

By **BARBARA MAHANY**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Let's start with the ugly truth: Your kitchen has gone to pot—and we don't mean the cooking kind, the kind you can't find for all the whatchamabobs and doohickeys you've hoarded over the years.

You can't see the countertops (yes, those quarried-just-for-

demolition crew and start from scratch. But we've got a smarter idea: Pare it down. Ditch the detritus. Dial up the bliss there by the cutting board. The holidays are just around the bend, and you might crave a little Zen in your cooking den.

"I call all this stuff that builds up life plaque," says life coach Gail Blanke, author of "Throw Out Fifty Things: Clear the Clutter, Find Your Life" (Hachette,

SEEKING THE ZEN

Gail Blanke's guide to the uncluttered kitchen:

Start simple. Pick one drawer—15 minutes is all we're asking. Set a timer.

As you riffle through, ask: Do I like it? Am I using it now? Do I want to pass it to my kids? (If the answer is no, anywhere along, slap on the eviction notice.)

Remember: You don't have to toss Granny's corncob-shaped platter into the trash; you can always donate.

Once you conquer that lowly drawer, you'll be emboldened to take on a cupboard, the pantry—maybe even the dark recesses of your fridge.

you landing pads you haven't eyeballed since the day they were smacked down).

You can barely yank open the extra-wide utensil drawer, what with all the thingamajigs you've stuffed inside. Psst, do you really need three dough scrapers? And what's with the five orange peelers, the deep-dish pizza pan grabber you haven't used in 16 years, and, excuse me, please explain the microwave probe that looks for all the world like something that belongs in a carpenter's tool belt?

Oh, sure, you could call in the

\$13.99). "It clogs the arteries of our lives and, God knows, it stops up our creativity."

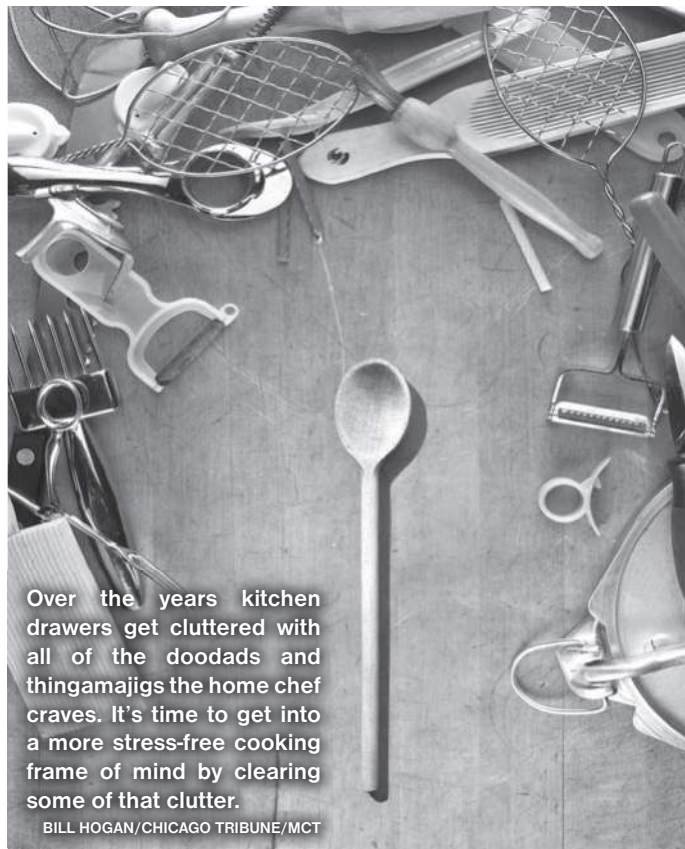
Seeing as she wrote 271 pages on the subject, Blanke can clear a kitchen in a matter of minutes (follow along with her de-clutter guide below). Most of what's clogging the joint, she says, is "the debris of indecision."

You really need that oyster shucking knife you haven't used in 11 years?

Lest you think she'll have you tossing the kitchen sink, she soothes: "I'm not a minimalist.

Clearing space

What to do when your kitchen Zen is buried deep beneath a gazillion whatchamabobs



Over the years kitchen drawers get cluttered with all of the doodads and thingamajigs the home chef craves. It's time to get into a more stress-free cooking frame of mind by clearing some of that clutter.

BILL HOGAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

I'm a middle-of-the-road person. The difference is I don't keep anything around that I

don't use."

And therein lies your homework.

"We're not talking about having the tidiest kitchen on the block," says Blanke, "we're talking about being free. You clear the clutter, you clear your mind."

Here's inspiration: Blanke, a first-rate cook, one who can debate morels versus chanterelles with the best of 'em, says the most sumptuous part of the holidays is what goes on way before dinner is served in the kitchen, the cleared-of-life-plaque kitchen.

In her old Connecticut farmhouse, it's five grown-ups and an oversize golden retriever, ringing round the cookstove. It's a candle burning on the clutter-free counter, a lamp glowing in the corner (because there aren't 18 odd appliances hogging all the real estate). It's not being worried that when one of the sous chefs is rummaging for a pie cutter he'll be impaled by one of umpteen redundant whatchamahoojies.

When the kitchen is a place where the ones you love aren't elbowing for inches, where there's room to peel and chop

and stir, "it makes people feel like they belong, feel cozy," says Blanke. "You have casual conversations that you might not otherwise have. That's what we remember—it's not about having a perfect dinner, it's about creating something beautiful together."

Rosanna Nafziger Henderson, co-author of "The Lost Art of Real Cooking: Rediscovering the Pleasures of Traditional Food One Recipe at a Time" (Perigee, \$18.95), downsized from her already undersized San Francisco kitchen when she married this past summer, squeezing into a mere 60 square feet in which she still manages to churn butter, ferment sauerkraut, even mill her own buckwheat.

She savors getting by with a few utensils that connect her to the ways of cookery long ago, weave a little exercise into her day and create much-needed pauses in the rush to feasting.

"One of the main things about being in the kitchen together is doing parallel tasks, and the conversations that happen when your hands are doing something," says Henderson.

And, adds Blanke, making room in a kitchen for good souls and conversation allows for the richest recipe of all: "You want the people who've come into your home to walk away differently from the way they arrived."

Baked Chocolate Pudding

This easy, yet impressive, dessert can be made in advance and heated when you're ready to serve it, making it the perfect choice when you're hosting a large group. The splash of framboise in the pudding adds an elegant touch.

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted and cooled, plus more for greasing
3/4 cup good-quality cocoa powder

1/2 cup all-purpose flour
4 extra-large eggs, at room temperature
2 cups sugar
1 vanilla bean, split, seeds scraped
1 tablespoon framboise liqueur (optional)
Vanilla ice cream, for serving

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Lightly butter 2-quart shallow oval baking dish.
2. Into medium bowl, sift to-

gether cocoa powder and flour. In large bowl, with mixer on medium-high speed, beat eggs and sugar 5 to 10 minutes or until very thick and light yellow.

3. Reduce speed to low; add vanilla seeds, framboise (if using) and cocoa mixture. Mix just until combined. Slowly pour in butter; mix just until combined.

4. Pour mixture into prepared dish set in larger baking pan. Add hot tap water to pan to come halfway up side of dish.

5. Bake exactly 1 hour. A toothpick inserted 2 inches from side will come out clean. Center

will appear very under-baked. Cool completely.

6. Serve with ice cream. Serves 12.

TIP: To make ahead, wrap; refrigerate up to 3 days. To serve, bring to room temperature.

■ Each serving: About 335 calories, 18g total fat (11g saturated), 110mg cholesterol, 30mg sodium, 40g carbohydrate, 1g dietary fiber, 4g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

When the holidays won't light up

By **SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA**
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.



Q: I bought three strings of exterior holiday lights last year to decorate the trees in my backyard. This year, although I put them up the same way, half the bulbs on one string won't light.

What's going on?—Carol in Cocoa, Fla.

A: The problem is likely as simple as a single burned-out light bulb halfway down the string. Turn on the lights as you normally do and locate the first bulb on the string that will not light up. Mark that bulb with a small bit of masking tape so you can find it again, and then unplug the string.

Go to the box where you stored your holiday lights and look for a container or a small plastic bag that contains replacement bulbs and fuses. Return to your string, locate the burned-out bulb, remove it by pulling it firmly straight out of the socket, and put a replacement bulb in its place. (The new bulb must be the same size and type as the old one.) Plug the string back in and turn on. If the bulb was the culprit, the entire string will relight.

If that method doesn't work, you may have a fuse issue. Fuses are located in each of the plugs. If your strings are attached end-to-end and the failure occurs at one of these attachment points, try removing the old fuse from the attached end and putting in a replacement fuse (be sure to unplug the entire string before doing this, just to be safe).

Fuse faults can occur when too many strings are attached end-to-end, overloading the circuit. Read the package instructions to find out the maximum number of light strings that can be attached to each other (three strings is a good limit).

HOME TIP: Avoid using holiday lights marked "indoor use only" on the outside of your house or in your yard, for safety reasons. Use exterior lights instead.



Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Perfect pairings for easy entertaining

Treat your friends and family to a global culinary adventure this holiday season by hosting a casual cheese-tasting party in place of a sit-down meal. MyGourmetConnection's suggested pairings of cold meats, cheeses, condiments and beverages will set the scene for a memorable get-together that's easy on the host and hostess.

THE MENU:

Norway's famous Jarlsberg is a mild cow's milk cheese with a slightly sweet, nutty flavor and smooth texture. It pairs well with cubed or thin-sliced turkey, crisp seedless grapes and buttered pumpernickel rounds.

Woolwich Dairy's Triple Creme Goat Brie is a soft-ripened goat's milk cheese from Canada. It has a fresh grassy

flavor and a rich, creamy texture. It's delicious served with the subtle spice of Black Forest ham and a condiment with tangy fruit flavors like a homemade chutney.

The Gran Maestre Manchego Semicurado (also available under the Villacenteno label) is a sheep's milk cheese from Spain that has been aged for 3 months to produce a nutty, buttery flavor. Serve with dry-cured ham, preferably a Spanish Serrano or Italian Prosciutto, and accompany the pairing with fresh or dried figs and spice-toasted almonds.

THE PLANNING:

Determining how much to buy can be a bit tricky, but when cheese and meats (charcuterie) make up the whole menu,

plan on about 1 ounce of each cheese per person and about the same for the meats. Using these guidelines, 1/2 pound of each of the cheeses and meats we've suggested here should serve 8 people. If you don't mind leftovers, you may want to allow a little extra of each to be safe.

THE PRESENTATION:

Plan on taking your cheese out of the refrigerator at least 1 hour before serving for the best flavor and texture. Group the proper pairings together on decorative plates, wooden boards or marble slabs and have small plates, picks and napkins available so your guests can munch and mingle easily throughout the evening.

Generally speaking, white wines pair best with this cheese

assortment. Suggestions include Chablis or White Burgundy, Semi-dry Riesling, unoaked Chardonnay and a sparkling Spanish Cava.

QUICK TIP:

To make buttered pumpernickel rounds: Get a loaf of fresh, thin-sliced pumpernickel bread. Using a round biscuit cutter, cut 2 or 3 rounds from each slice. Spread each round with a very thin layer of softened butter and sprinkle them with a pinch of salt. Bake in a 400 F oven for 5 to 7 minutes, until toasted and crisp.

To find the recipe for our easy-to-make Apple-Cranberry Chutney, more info on choosing the right wine and beer for your party and additional tips for creating the perfect cheese board, visit: www.MyGourmetConnection.com/cheeseplate/

Life & Style

Jerry Robinson, Batman's Joker artist, dies in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Comic book industry pioneer Jerry Robinson, who helped create Batman sidekick Robin the Boy Wonder and their arch-nemesis The Joker, has died at age 89.

An editor and friend, Charles

Kochman, said Robinson was different from most artists in the field because he worked on every kind of comic genre, from political cartoons to theater illustrations.

"Jerry brought a realism to

comics—and a sense of humor," said Kochman, his editor at Abrams Comic Arts, which last year published a book called "Jerry Robinson: Ambassador of Comics."

Robinson not only used his fame and position in the industry to serve as its ambassador but also fought on behalf of other artists and creators—especially to win credit for their work, including the Superman series. Initially, in the 1930s and '40s, publishers owned the rights and would discard drawings after they were used.

Robinson, who died in his sleep Wednesday at his New York home, was a native of New Jersey. He was only 17 when he was hired by Batman creator Bob Kane. The two had met by chance at a resort in the Catskill Mountains, where Robinson had a summer job selling ice cream. Kane noticed Robinson because he was wearing a white jacket decorated with his own illustrations. In the early 1940s, Robinson "illustrated some of the defining images of pop culture's greatest icons," said Jim Lee, co-publisher of DC Entertainment Inc., the parent company of Batman publisher DC Comics.

While Robinson is credited by many comic enthusiasts as the primary creator of The Joker

Marley relative: Dispute over reggae legend's name

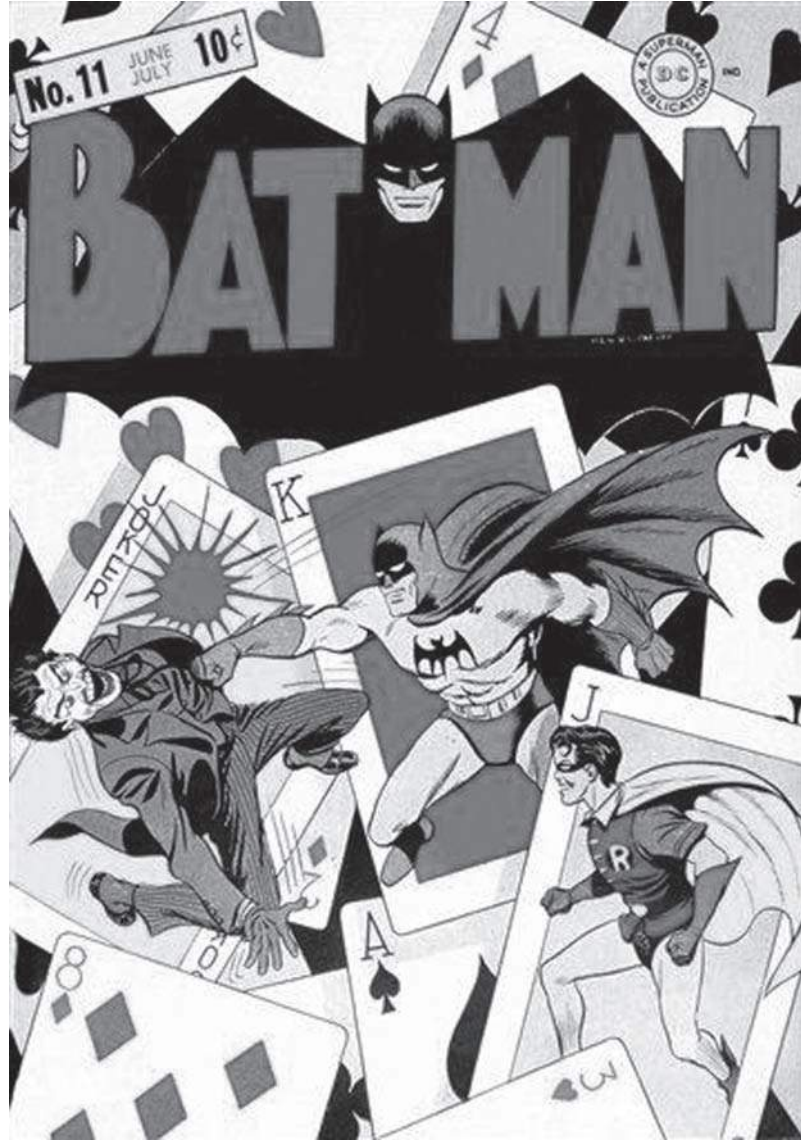
MIAMI (AP)—The half-brother of reggae legend Bob Marley said Thursday he will fight a lawsuit that seeks to stop him from using Marley's name and image without official authorization to promote an annual Miami music festival and other ventures.

Richard Booker, whose mother Cedella Booker was also Marley's, said an internal family dispute should not have escalated into a legal battle. The lawsuit was filed last week on behalf of a Bahamian company that represents Marley's widow, Rita, and nine of the late superstar's children.

"I am heartbroken by what is happening," Booker said.

not be returned from jail to court in time.

Lucius Foster was convicted of taking \$5,000 each from people for whom he promised to build affordable homes made from cargo containers. The units were never built, and prosecutors alleged he blatantly lied to clients.



In this undated photo provided by DC Comics, the issue 11 cover of "Batman" is shown.

for issue No. 1 of Batman, he and Kane clashed over who was first to dream up the caped crusader's arch-enemy. In a 1994 interview, Kane said he and

writer Bill Finger had come up with the idea and Robinson then produced a joker playing card for inspiration.

Robinson was hired away

from Kane's shop by the Batman publisher, for which he drew many of the most striking covers from the golden age of comics, such as that of "Batman" No. 13, showing the caped crusader parachuting down.

In the 1950s, he started drawing newspaper comic strips, political cartoons and cover illustrations for Broadway's "Playbill."

Later in life, Robinson taught at New York's School of Visual Arts and was president of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists and the National Cartoonists Society.

"He saw the value of comics as an art," Kochman said.

In recent years, rare issues of comic books have fetched hundreds of thousands of dollars at auction.

Robinson also served as a historian, authoring "The Comics: An Illustrated History of Comic Strip Art" and curating gallery exhibits, including one of the biggest at the Kennedy Library in Washington in 1973 that included all the genres of the strip comic art form.

Mike Marts, editor of the Batman line at DC Comics, said Robinson was "an innovator, a pioneer in storytelling."

"The streets of Gotham City," Marts said, "are a little lonelier today."

said, was first formed in 1978 as a fan club.

In his statement, Booker said his and Marley's mother participated in many of these businesses before she died in 2008. He suggested that the Marley family is only now challenging his use of the name in order to get a cut of his profits.

"This would not have escalated to this point if our mother were still here," Booker said.

The Marley lawsuit contends the family has long opposed Booker's use of the name but has been unable to negotiate a licensing deal.

The family, according to their statement, is "hopeful that they will be able to amicably resolve their dispute with Mr. Booker and remain ready and willing to do so."

'Sherlock Holmes' sequel has London premiere

LONDON (AP)—Sherlock Holmes is back on the streets of London—or rather Robert Downey Jr., the actor who plays him, is for the European premiere of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows."

Also walking the red carpet in

the British capital on Thursday night will be co-stars Jude Law and Noomi Rapace and director Guy Ritchie, Madonna's ex-husband. The film, the sequel to the 2009 hit "Sherlock Holmes," sees Downey Jr. and Law reprise their roles as the eccentric detective

and his loyal sidekick Dr. Watson. This time they travel across Europe as they take on the criminal mastermind Professor Moriarty, played by Jared Harris.

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" hits U.K. cinemas on Friday.

Questlove: NBC clearing Roots songs for Fallon

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC is now checking the songs the Roots play on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" after the band performed an off-color song during Michele Bachmann's show appearance last month.

Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson of The Roots says now he's "gotta clear a lot of the song choices" with the network.

"It's still a comedy show, so they promise not to step on my toes or that type of thing, but they definitely want to know the title of the song, the subject matter of the song, can it be seen as an insult?" he said in an interview Thursday.

When the Republican presidential candidate appeared on the Nov. 22 show, house band The Roots played a snippet of a 1985 Fishbone song called "Lyn' Ass B----." A day later

the Minnesota congresswoman received a personal letter from NBC's vice president for late night programming, Doug Vaughan; Fallon also apologized. "It was kind of wrong for me to throw (NBC) under the bus without telling them what it was, so I understand from a business standpoint," Thompson said.

The drummer and frontman of The Roots said after the incident, he heard from members of Fishbone. The veteran rock band is the subject of a recent documentary, "Everyday Sunshine: The Story of Fishbone," so for them, the controversy likely helped.

"They have a movie out so I guess for them at least the stars were aligned," he said. "They're one of my favorite bands, like I tip my hat to those guys."



AP

In this April 20, 2011 file photo, musician Questlove attends the world premiere of "The Union" featured as the opening night gala screening at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Sentencing delayed for Jodie Foster's dad

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scheduling issues have delayed the sentencing of Jodie Foster's estranged father, who faces more than 25 years behind bars after being convicted of bilking more than \$100,000 from the poor and elderly in a home-building scheme.

City attorney's spokesman

Frank Mateljan (mah-TEHL-jin) says Lucius Foster will return to court Friday morning. The 89-year-old was convicted of 21 misdemeanor counts of grand theft Wednesday after a jury determined he had bilked 21 people out of money. He was expected to be sentenced Thursday but could

Jay-Z to raise money, perform at Carnegie Hall



Shawn "Jay Z" Carter attends a press event to announce his Carnegie Hall performances to benefit the United Way and the Shawn Carter Scholarship Foundation, in New York, Thursday.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay-Z didn't graduate from high school, but he's encouraging others to value their education.

The rapper announced Thursday that he will perform two shows at New York's Carnegie Hall in February to benefit the Shawn Carter Scholarship Foundation and the United Way of New York City.

"Education is super important," Jay-Z said. "I don't have a high school diploma or a college diploma, but still for me to articulate, I had to have some form of schooling to articulate my thoughts."

The concerts will take place

on Feb. 6 and Feb. 7. Tickets in the private sale will range from \$500 to \$2500.

The press conference announced Jay-Z as the first solo hip-hop artist to play at the famed venue, though Wyclef Jean performed there in 2001 with Stevie Wonder, Eric Clapton and Whitney Houston.

"I feel like they bent the rules so that it could make sense for me right now, but I'll take it," Jay-Z said with a laugh.

Jay-Z says performing at Carnegie Hall is a big deal for hip-hop, and he's happy to bring the genre to greater heights.

"Any time that I get a chance to expand and broaden the reach of hip-hop is a great thing for me on a personal level," he said.

The Brooklyn-born performer said he's excited to influence his community in ways outside of music. He says going back to the Marcy Projects complex where he grew up remains a moving experience.

He says he got the same feeling when he recently went to Kanye West's old home in the South Side of Chicago.

"The inspiration and how happy the people were, it just makes you feel really good," he said.

Woman questions future with unaffectionate man

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 28 and have dated my boyfriend "Dan" for two years. We have lived together for the past year. I fell for him the moment I laid eyes on him and have always imagined we would spend the rest of our lives together.

My problem is Dan shows me almost no affection. He doesn't tell me he loves me unless I say it first; he never wants to cuddle next to me or hug me when he gets home from work. He insists that he loves me, and says his lack of demonstrativeness is because he didn't grow up in an affectionate household and it makes him uncomfortable.

I feel Dan is an adult and can choose to make his household—our household—one filled with love and affection. It's starting to make me question whether we really have a future together. Am I overreacting?

NO HUGS, NO CUDDLES IN PHILLY

DEAR NO HUGS, NO CUDDLES: No. You're an intelligent woman, and you're asking intelligent questions. Before making up your mind about Dan, make clear to him what your needs are. Demonstrate the kind of affection you need from him, and see if he's willing to make the effort. If he's not up to it, then—face it—he's not the man for you. To marry someone who can't show love would be for you to live on an emotional starvation diet.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a caring, loving husband. I enjoy my time with my wife. I think about our future a lot and want our marriage to last for as long as possible.

I make exercise a priority in my life, but I can't get her to understand that she should, too. I love her for who she is, but I want her to be in great health.

I am a very straightforward person and have told her in ways she didn't respond well to. She becomes defensive. How do you tell a woman she should exercise without offending her?

FIT IN AKRON, OHIO

DEAR FIT: Talk to her about the couples you encounter who exercise together. Tell her how much it would mean to you if you could share the activity together. If your form of exercise isn't one that works for her, then find something you can agree on to do together.

If that doesn't help, then you'll have to accept her for who she is—a confirmed couch potato.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I live in Japan and love your column. It is informative and helps me stay in touch with America. But I need to get something off my chest.

I am beyond tired of the number of women I read about in your column who refer to their wedding day as "my special day." News flash, ladies: You should be using the term "OUR special day"! If you're so focused on your dress and hair and any faux pas—real or imagined—your guests may commit that you lose focus on the life you and your husband are beginning, perhaps you should buy a pet rather than get married.

Any person who has stayed married for more than a few years knows the marriage ceremony is the easy part. The self-absorption that permeates today's wedding scene ranges from embarrassing to sickening.

ROB IN TOMAKOMAI

DEAR ROB: Weddings (and funerals) can bring out the worst in people because they are times when emotion sometimes trumps common sense. The majority of American brides are gracious, polite, loving and hardworking. They are also prepared for the realities that come after the fairy tale wedding. (And if they're not, I hear from them!) Please don't judge all American brides by the ones you read about in my column. The weddings that go smoothly I don't hear about.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Emma Watson tells teens to be true to who they are

Rapper 50 Cent releasing fitness book, food guide

NEW YORK (AP)—50 Cent has rapped about getting rich. Now he's focusing on getting fit.

The hip-hop star is putting out a fitness book that's set to be published in January 2013 by Avery Books. Titled "Formula 50: A 6-Week Total Body Transformation Plan," the book will tout metabolic resistance training as the key to getting in shape. It will also include a nutrition guide.

The buff rapper says he wants to help people "make positive changes and take charge of their overall health."

"Formula 50" will be the latest credit for 50 Cent as an author. He recently released the teen novel "Playground" and also wrote "Pieces to Weight, The 50th Law."

The rapper's latest book will be co-written by Jeff O'Connell, editor-in-chief of Bodybuilding.com.



In this Oct. 26, 2011 file photo, rapper and businessman Curtis Jackson III, known as 50 Cent, poses during an interview in New York. Jackson is putting out a fitness book, set to be published in January 2013 by Avery Books.



HONG KONG (AP)—Emma Watson's advice to teenagers is: "Feel comfortable in your own skin."

The 21-year-old Harry Potter star, on her second visit to Hong Kong, said she loves traveling in Asia.

The British actress cast as Hermione Granger when she was just 10 has said she's preparing to step out of the safe world of film sets. She's been studying at Brown and Oxford universities.

She told reporters Thursday her best advice to teens is: "Be true to who you are and do the best to feel comfortable in your own skin. You are all right exactly as you are."

She was in Hong Kong on a business trip. About 100 fans, holding "Harry Potter" books or fashion magazines with Watson on the cover, greeted the actress.

British actress Emma Watson attends a promotional event for a cosmetic brand in Hong Kong Wednesday Dec. 7, 2011.

AP

Andie MacDowell's daughter named Miss Golden Globe

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has named its newest Miss Golden Globe.

Rainey Qualley was introduced as the 2012 honoree at a news conference Thursday at Cececoni's restaurant in West Hollywood. She's the daughter of Golden Globe-nominated

actress Andie MacDowell. Miss Golden Globe is traditionally the child of a celebrity who is invited to assist during the awards ceremony. Previous honorees include Rumer Willis, Laura Dern, Melanie Griffith and Joely Fisher.

The 21-year-old Qualley is an aspiring actress and musician.

The announcement was to be followed by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's starry Night of Firsts party, held to celebrate the start of Hollywood's awards season.

Nominations for the 69th annual Golden Globe Awards will be announced next week. The ceremony is slated for Jan. 15.

Reality show star Duggar suffers miscarriage

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—An Arkansas woman who stars on the TLC reality show "19 Kids and Counting" has suffered a miscarriage after announcing she was expecting her 20th child.

Jim Bob Duggar said in a statement that he and his wife, Michelle, were told at a doctor's appointment Thursday morning that she had miscarried. He says she is resting comfortably at home and asked for privacy.

Michelle Duggar announced last month she was expect-



ing her 20th child in April and had said she wasn't worried, despite the premature birth of their youngest child two years ago. She said last month that she had made it through the first trimester safely.

The reality show chronicles the family's home life. The couple has said they don't use birth control.

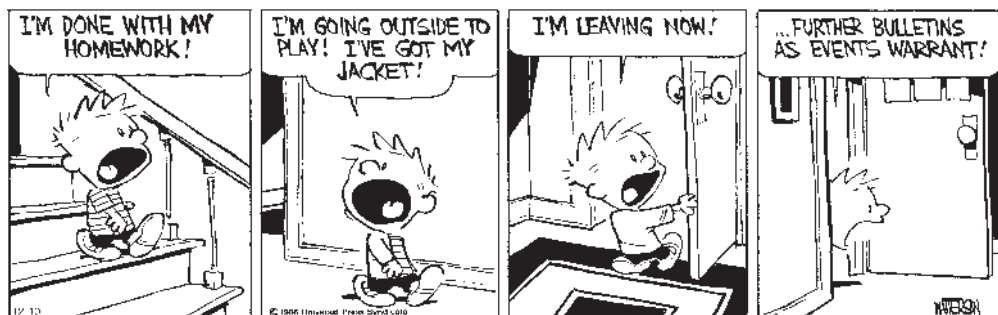
In this Dec. 19, 2008 file picture, Michelle Duggar is shown in Rogers, Ark.

AP

Calvin and Hobbes

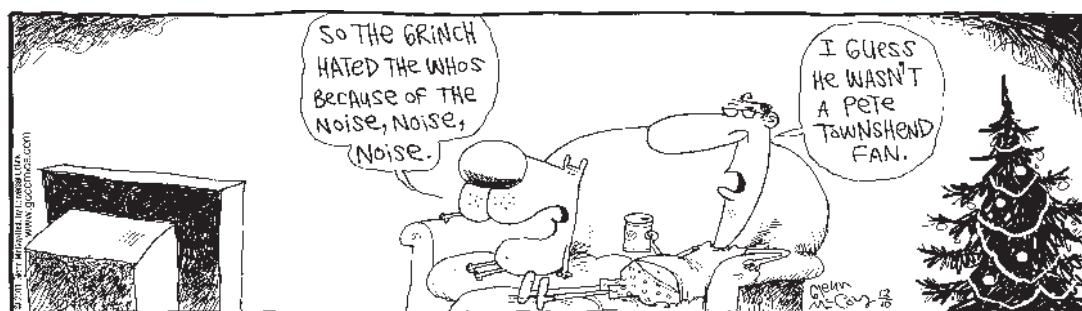
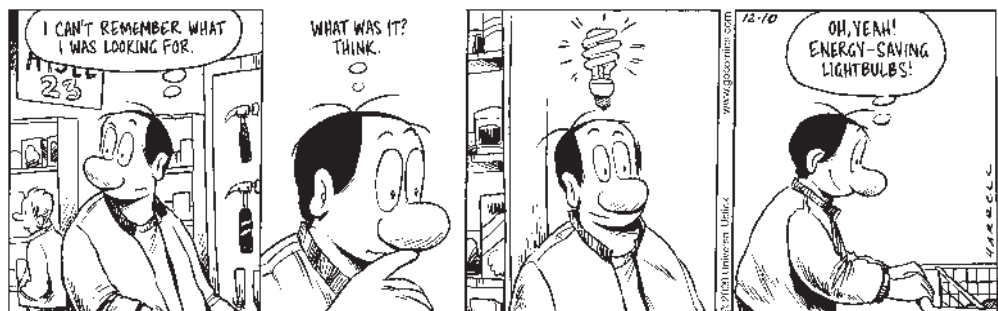
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



ACROSS

1 Musical endings

6 Aloof

12 Grapefruit's cousin

13 Quick look

14 Low in hemoglobin

15 Wicker-work material

16 Gamblers' mecca

17 Day of destiny

19 Type measures

20 Highland hillside

22 Frat party need

24 Braggart's output

27 Austrian range

29 Raised

32 First Lady who went to Harvard Law School

35 Spruce up

36 Play area

DOWN

1 Scoop holder

2 Portent

3 Disband, for short

4 "The Greatest"

5 With companionability

6 Shrek is one

7 Hooch container

8 Overweight

9 Basic

10 Con game

11 Coop group

12 Standard

18 Get off at LAX

21 "Norma —"

23 Recede

24 Prime meridian hrs.

25 Football filler

26 Curved-bladed saber

28 Highest of the celestial hierarchy

30 Flightless bird

31 Mr. Hammar-skjöld

33 Med. plan

34 Eccentric

39 Tools for duels

41 Acid type

42 Shove

43 Formerly

45 Vortex


47 Fleet from far away?

48 Withered

49 Before

51 Anger

53 Swelled head

 **CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Someone may say something behind your back. Don't be too eager to find out what's go-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't take on a challenge that can lead to a confrontation. Travel should be kept to a minimum, and partnership problems should be left alone until you've had time to thoroughly think things through. ★★★

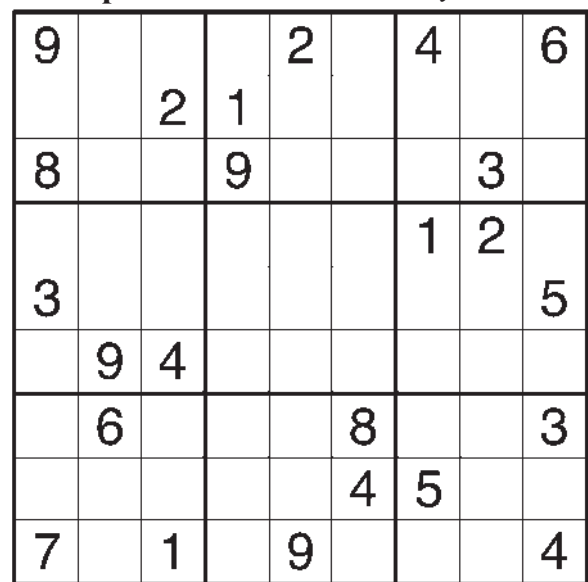


PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Gravitate toward the people you know you can trust. Avoid a big talker trying to grab your attention and your money. Don't give in to someone with a sob story. It's not up to you to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, unyielding, outgoing and unpredictable.

*Eugenia's Web sites: **eugenialast.com** for confidential consultations, **myspace.com/eugenialast** for Eugenia's blog, **astroadvice.com** for fun*

By Dave Green



Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12:10

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By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FEARRINGTON VILLAGE, N.C.

Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | D | A | P | T | D | U | R | H | A | M | R | C | P | E |
| D | I | T | A | R | E | W | T | X | Y | E | S | H | I | H |
| N | N | T | S | E | T | A | A | R | A | N | N | A | C | N |
| A | N | R | T | E | L | L | H | S | W | U | N | T | T | E |
| L | E | A | U | S | E | K | E | M | O | I | I | E | U | D |
| L | R | C | R | B | A | R | O | L | F | E | A | R | R | |
| I | S | T | E | S | O | B | O | L | A | U | U | E | A | |
| H | E | I | S | O | W | A | R | R | A | R | Q | X | T | G |
| L | U | V | N | I | O | A | E | O | G | M | I | H | N | N |
| E | Q | E | N | T | C | S | R | T | R | S | T | A | O | I |
| P | I | E | Ⓒ | Ⓜ | ⓔ | ⓕ | I | T | A | G | N | V | M | M |
| A | T | S | T | S | E | U | G | I | A | W | O | A | E | D |
| H | U | R | A | L | E | I | G | H | L | V | A | I | N | E |
| C | O | U | N | T | R | Y | W | E | N | E | R | R | I | H |
| N | B | O | O | K | S | T | O | R | E | S | R | K | P | C |

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Antique, Artwork, Attractive, Belted, Bookstores, Boutiques, Chapel Hill, Charming, Chateaux, Chef, Country, Cows, Dinners, Durham, Farms, Fitch, Galloway, Garden, Guests Haven, Herb, Inns, Land, Menu, North Carolina, Organic Pastures, Picture, Piedmont, Pittsboro, Private, Raleigh, Relax, Relax, Relax, Rooms, Season, Trees, Walk, Wine

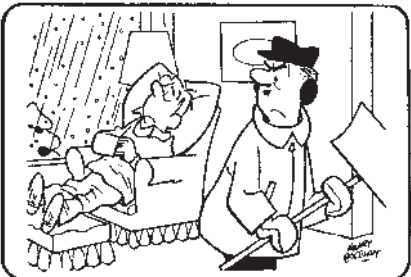
Yesterday's Answer: Admissions
 To order THE COLLECTED WORKS OF ROGER WOOD, Volumes 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 send \$25 each. US funds only payable to Universal Uclick, plus \$5.00 for the first book, order \$1 each book and a hard book. Send to: WOODHEAD, 105 Wagon St., Kansas City, MO 64112, or call 1-800-647-8228. E-mail: order@universalu.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service. NYC.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Picture is different. 2. Window has curtains. 3. Shovel is different. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Ottoman has no skin. 6. Lampshade is different.

Wishing Well®

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| S | D | E | P | C | X | S | H | E | T | A | P | E |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| R | R | N | S | R | C | A | G | N | E | D | O | O |
| 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| A | N | D | T | N | H | A | A | O | K | O | A | P |
| 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| T | E | I | E | I | E | R | C | S | H | D | A | S |
| 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 8 |
| L | E | A | S | M | D | I | V | E | M | G | M | I |
| 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| I | V | N | R | E | I | E | G | N | N | U | D | N |
| 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| P | T | E | U | D | R | U | E | N | R | T | E | |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword ROSE GARDEN

ACROSS

- 1 "It the truth?"
- 5 Restrain
- 10 Conduit fittings
- 14 Active volcano
- 18 "The Green —" ('56 hit)
- 19 Victorian ornament
- 20 Rachel's sister
- 21 TV's "The Wonder —"
- 23 Guns n' Roses hit
- 26 — nous
- 27 Soprano Gluck
- 28 "— a day's work"
- 29 Sleuth Nancy
- 31 Herriman's "Krazy —"
- 32 Mythical monster
- 34 In flight
- 37 Adjective suffix
- 38 One of "The Three Tenors"
- 43 Rock's — & the Gang
- 44 Pine
- 46 Kimono cummerbund
- 47 Interrogates
- 49 Cranny's companion
- 51 Toomey or Philbin

- 54 Rose Nylund's portrayer
- 58 Okefenokee, for one
- 61 Skin problem
- 62 Irwin of "The Crocodile Hunter"
- 63 '78 Peace Nobel
- 65 Pestiferous person
- 67 Unmatched
- 68 Went like hotcakes
- 71 Apprehend
- 72 Curmin or coriander
- 73 Stretch the truth
- 74 Health concern
- 77 Billy Rose song
- 80 Organ of equilibrium
- 81 Poetic pot
- 82 Reference volume
- 83 Patriotic org
- 84 Prepare prunes
- 86 Bar supply
- 87 Linguist Chomsky
- 88 Scope
- 90 Unbroken
- 94 "Divine Comedy" figure
- 96 Caroline, to Ted

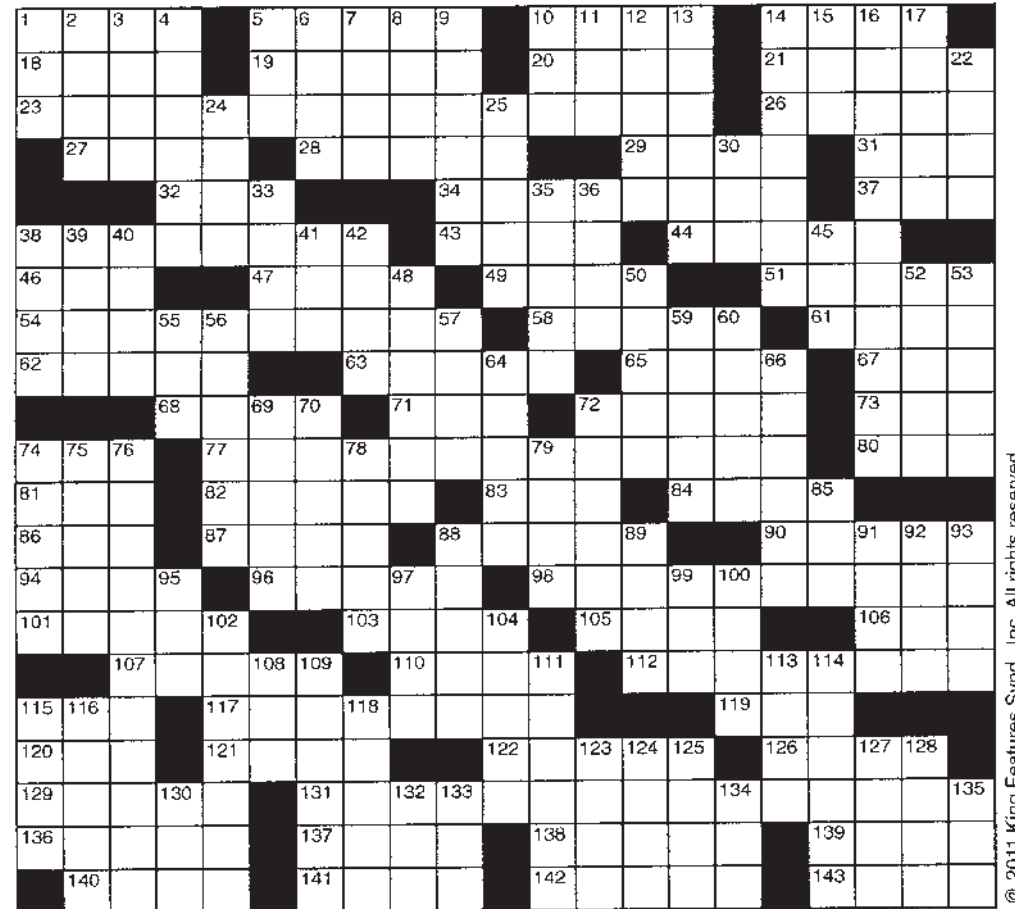
- 98 "The Name of the Rose" author
- 101 Send the money
- 103 Salt serving
- 105 — Alto, CA
- 106 Dover's st.
- 107 Fight site
- 110 Temporary wealth?
- 112 Butcher's offering
- 115 "The — and I" ('47 film)
- 117 "Fait —"
- 119 Ending for "auction"
- 120 Sought office
- 121 Penny or peseta
- 122 Wrong
- 126 Architect
- 129 Conductor
- 131 Rose McGowan movie
- 136 Murcia mister
- 137 Take — the chin
- 138 Spring for
- 139 Actress Ward
- 140 Live on
- 141 Bean on the bean
- 142 Hope's "The Prisoner of —"
- 143 North Carolina campus

DOWN

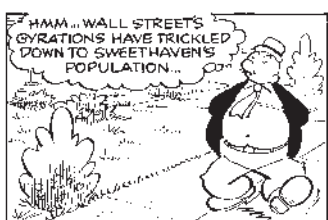
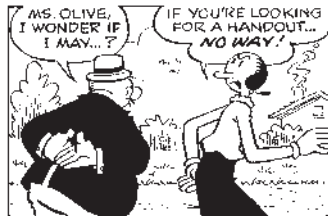
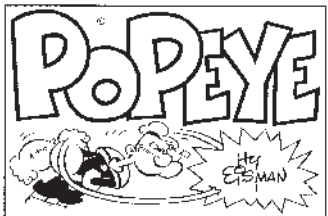
- 1 Pitches
- 2 Where the tall corn grows
- 3 Gallagher of Oasis
- 4 Aftershock
- 5 New Deal agcy.
- 6 "Very funny!"
- 7 Runner
- 8 Room without a view?
- 9 Alaskan bear
- 10 Shady character?
- 11 Wahine's wreath
- 12 Joe of "Dr. Quinn"
- 13 '62 Four Seasons hit
- 14 Glasses
- 15 Dress size
- 16 "Ramblin' Rose" singer
- 17 Stage backdrop
- 22 Clockmaker Thomas
- 24 Grocer's measure
- 25 Tearjerker?
- 30 Vane letters
- 33 Gullet
- 35 Perch
- 36 Run through
- 38 Male swans
- 39 Help a hood
- 40 Formal ceremony
- 41 — blond

- 42 Goes downhill fast?
- 45 Stephen of "Interview with the Vampire"
- 48 Loses a lap
- 50 Phi Beta —
- 52 79 Down's homeland
- 53 Passover meal
- 55 Watching machines?
- 56 Petty officer
- 57 Dairy-case purchase
- 59 "Upstairs, Downstairs" extras
- 60 Ornamental loop
- 64 Gulf
- 66 Most revolutionary
- 69 Divulge
- 70 — Lama
- 72 Cocktail ingredient
- 74 It makes candy dandy
- 75 Austen title start
- 76 "The Rose Tattoo" actress
- 78 Christened
- 79 "Elephant Boy" star
- 85 Wine and dine
- 88 Moral man?
- 89 Stowe sight
- 91 A swan was her swain

- 92 Summer-time treats
- 93 Lamebrain
- 95 Russian space station
- 97 Tranquil
- 99 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
- 100 Morning wear
- 102 4 p.m. vehicle?
- 104 Muslim dietary term
- 108 Sgt. or cpl.
- 109 Like lemons
- 111 WWII admiral
- 113 Shorten a sail
- 114 Threat words
- 115 Desire
- 116 Looked longingly
- 118 — a customer
- 123 Concerning
- 124 Lightweight gun
- 125 Large herring
- 127 Whirl
- 128 Christiania, today
- 130 Affliction
- 132 Wolfram — Eschenbach
- 133 Squid's squirt
- 134 "Wings" abbr.
- 135 Solo of "Star Wars"

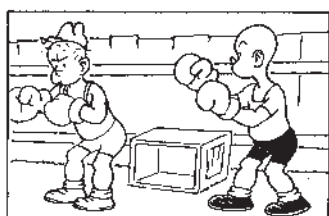
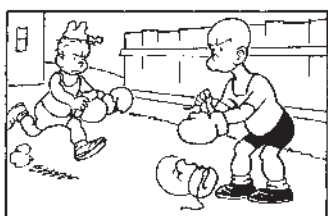
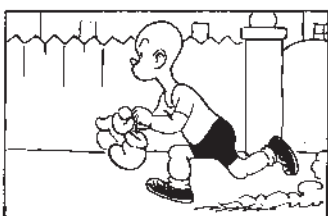
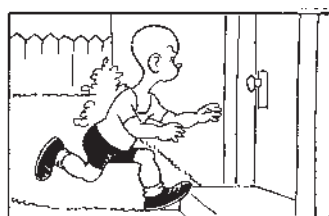
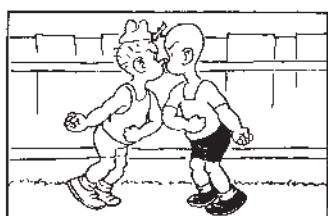
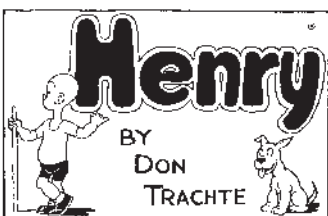
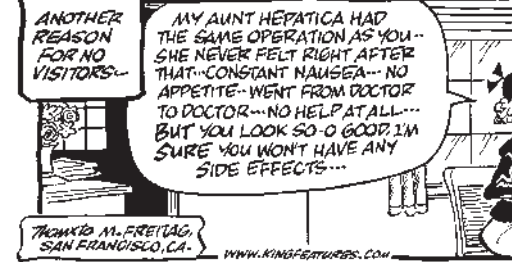
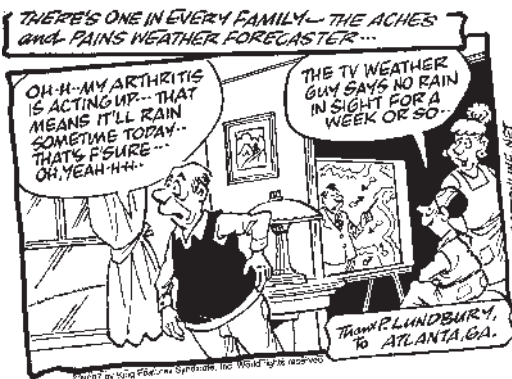


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They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



1. LITERATURE: Olivanders is the name of a shop prominently featured in which series of novels?
2. PSYCHOLOGY: What unnatural fear is represented in disorder oneirophobia?
3. MOVIES: Which Alfred Hitchcock movie features a main character who is confined to a wheelchair?
4. MUSIC: Which rock-and-roll group had a hit with the song "Got to Get You into My Life"?
5. TELEVISION: What is the setting for the TV soap "Another World"?
6. ANCIENT WORLD: Who was one of the chief founders of the philosophy of Cynicism?
7. POETRY: Who wrote the words, "God's in his heaven/ All's right with the world"?
8. ART: For what type of work was the 16th-century artist Titian best known?
9. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek goddess of love?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the deepest lake in the world?

1. The "Harry Potter" books
2. Fear of dreams
3. "Rear Window"
4. The Beatles
5. Bay City
6. Diogenes
7. Robert Browning
8. Painting
9. Aphrodite
10. Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia

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Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

| ADS | (PRINT) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| • 3-Liner | \$15 | \$27 |
| • 5-Liner | \$24 | \$39 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | \$24 | \$42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | \$36 | \$57 |

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

TORRES BROTHERS, LLC.
Joaquin DLG Torres, Esq. (F0257)
Attorneys At Law
P.O. Box 501856
Middle Road, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-233-5504/06
Fax: 670-233-5510

*Attorneys for Executrix
Ignatia Aldan*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF **CIVIL ACTION
NO. 08-0195**

**GREGORIA
CAMACHO
CABRERA,** **NOTICE OF
HEARING FOR
FINAL DECREE OF
DISTRIBUTION ON**

Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for Final Decree of Distribution by the Executrix of the Estate of Gregoria Camacho Cabrera (Deceased), was filed in the above entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 202A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustisia-Imwal Awewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at 1:30 p.m. on **December 15, 2011.**

SO ENTERED this 9th day of December, 2011.

/s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

**NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION,** **CIVIL ACTION
NO. 11-0036**
Plaintiff, **NOTICE
OF SALE**

JOSE I. KAPILEO,
Defendant.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 7, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 0051129, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,104 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 00510, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 16702 on March 11, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 30, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 16th day of November, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Dan Dan walled gated concrete house 2 story large living area, 4BD 3BTH. Family room, 24hr water, stove & ref. Panoramic view of mountain/LauLau Bay/sea. Beautiful comfortable American Style home. 322-0268.

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Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cyl., Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

SERVICE

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Church planters prayerfully seeking start up team volunteers for new contemporary Non-denominational Christian Church launching early 2012. For more info, call 989.2459. www.church360saipan.org

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Pastimes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield**
SWALLOW BREAKFAST BEFORE YOU EAT LUNCH

By Glenn McCoy
OH, MAN... WHO MAKES UP ALL THESE RULES?

Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame

Minor wins doubles in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Reporter

Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.

Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Islands member Amanda Korinib...

foam@estuary

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

14VEE VALLEJERA

Pujols, Angels reach \$254 million, 10-year deal



DALLAS (AP)—Albert Pujols could have been a wealthy Cardinal for life, planning for the day his statue would be erected outside Busch Stadium next to those of Stan Musial, Bob Gibson and the other St. Louis greats.

Instead, exactly six weeks after leading the Cardinals to a second title in one of the most thrilling World Series ever, he decided to accept the second-highest contract in baseball history for a new future in southern California with the Los Angeles Angels.

The three-time NL MVP agreed Thursday to a \$254 million, 10-year contract with the Angels, leaving behind a heartbroken fan base by jilting one of the sport's traditional teams for an expansion club with only one championship in its half-century.

For baseball, it was a virtually unprecedented move.

Many top stars have changed teams in their careers, from Babe Ruth to Willie Mays to Barry Bonds. But this is perhaps the best player in the game over the past decade, exiting shortly after one of the great postseason power shows.

A big and burly offensive force with a shaved head, the nine-time All-Star has a room full of honors, winning the 2001 NL Rookie of the Year award, NL MVPs in 2005, 2008 and 2009, a batting title in 2003 and a pair of Gold Gloves at first base. Who would have predicted that when the Cardinals selected him in the 13th round of the 1999 amateur draft with the 402nd overall selection?

And now, he's going West.

As his deal fell into place on the final day of the winter meetings, the Angels struck another big agreement, a \$77.5 million, five-year contract with left-hander C.J. Wilson, the ace whose Texas Rangers lost to the Cardinals in the seven-game World Series.

"This is obviously the moment where we have thrown our hat in the ring," new Angels general manager Jerry Dipoto said.

Had he stayed in St. Louis before packed, adoring crowds, Pujols would've established a Cal Ripken-like legacy of loyalty, a rare modern star who remained with a franchise from first at-bat to final swing.

Instead, some of his former fans will see him as a sellout.

Pujols rejected a multiyear extension

last offseason that was said to include a small percentage of the franchise and cut off negotiations a day before he arrived at spring training. St. Louis also offered the slugger a 10-year deal that chairman Bill DeWitt Jr. said was in excess of \$200 million.

"I would like our fans to know that we tried our best to make Albert a lifetime Cardinal," he said in a statement, adding later in a telephone interview: "They were substantially higher than our bid."

In St. Louis, Pujols has accomplished so much that he would have been beloved no matter his future performance. But in Anaheim, he will have to prove himself anew.

"I think his body's going to start breaking down and he's not going to be good for 10 years," said Katie Coyle, fitness coordinator at the Webster-Kirkwood YMCA in Missouri, a die-hard fan who wore team colors to work during the playoffs. "I think he's going to regret leaving here. If he'd have stayed here and signed a long-term deal with the Cardinals, they'd have had compassion for him because they've seen him at his best."

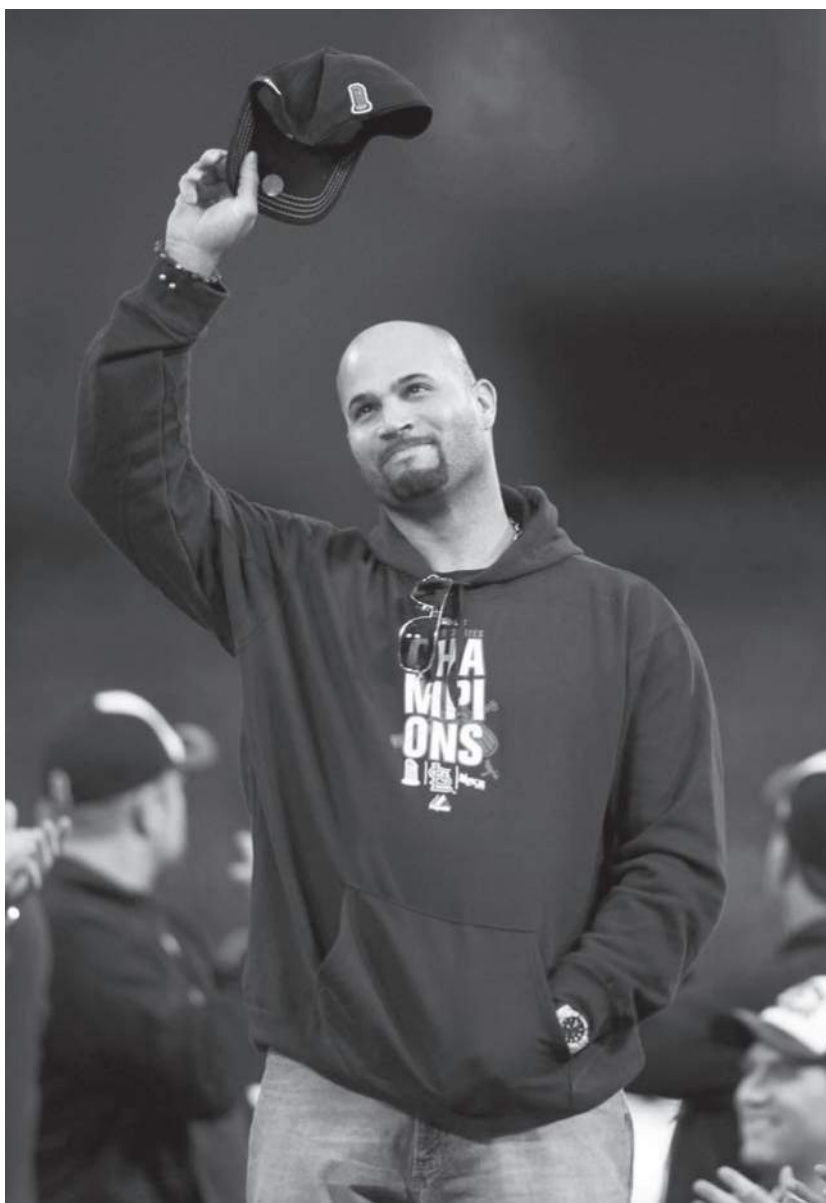
Pujols' contract, which like Wilson's is subject to a physical, is only the third to break the \$200 million barrier, following Alex Rodriguez's \$252 million, 10-year deal with Texas before the 2001 season and A-Rod's \$275 million, 10-year agreement with the Yankees before the 2008 season.

"This is a monumental day for Angel fans and I could not be more excited," said owner Arte Moreno, who bought the team for \$184 million from The Walt Disney Co. in 2003, a year after its only title.

Despite a top-four payroll this year, the Angels languished to a second-place finish behind Texas in the AL West. They spent \$331.5 million on just two players, capping an unusual winter meetings in which the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox watched while the Angels and Miami Marlins spent as if they were the sport's financial elite.

Moving into a new ballpark next season, the Marlins failed to reel in Pujols but acquired All-Star closer Heath Bell, All-Star shortstop Jose Reyes and left-hander Mark Buehrle for \$191 million, meaning the two clubs committed \$522.5 million to just five free agents.

"I think baseball needs to have a



This Oct. 30, 2011 file photo shows St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols waving to fans during a celebration of the baseball team's World Series title, in St. Louis.

steroid-testing policy for owners," said Andrew Zimbalist, a sports economics professor at Smith College.

At the very same hotel 11 years earlier, teams spent \$738.95 million on 24 free agents and none of the three big deals worked out as planned. Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez (\$160 million over eight years with Boston) and Mike Hampton (\$121 million over eight years with Colorado) all were traded during their contracts.

Pujols became the first player to hit 30 home runs in his first 11 seasons and the second after Al Simmons (1924-34) to reach 100 RBIs in his first 10. He has a .338 average with 445 home runs and 1,329 RBIs to become a franchise icon second only to Musial, and

is fourth in career slugging percentage at .617, trailing only Hall of Famers Ruth (.690), Ted Williams (.634) and Lou Gehrig (.632).

But Pujols' numbers in nearly every major offensive category are on a three-year decline. He had his poorest season in 2011 with a .299 average, 37 homers and 99 RBIs. He batted just .240 in the Series but had a night for the ages in Game 3, joining Ruth and Reggie Jackson as only the third player to hit three home runs in a Series game.

"We understand that players will go through peaks and valleys of sort," Dipoto said. "Albert has spent many years operating at peak, and if we want to call a decline going from superhuman to just great, I don't think

we've seen the last great days of Albert Pujols, obviously, or we wouldn't be sitting here today."

Some have speculated he is older than the listed 31 and he could be a full-time designated hitter within a few years. "Albert Pujols' age to me is not a concern," Dipoto said. "I'm not a scientist. I can't tell you where he is, but I can tell you he hits like he's 27."

The Angels made the move as the financially troubled Los Angeles Dodgers are in the process of being sold by Frank McCourt in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, a deal that could give the region's NL team a new, wealthy owner. The Dodgers could aggressively bid for talent a year from now, giving them a boost in the regional competition for fans' attention.

"Winning breeds interest, and we are setting ourselves up to start next season with an opportunity to get good," Dipoto said.

Pujols agreed in 2004 to a \$100 million, seven-year contract, a deal that—with a 2011 option and bonuses—wound up paying him \$112.55 million over eight years.

Cardinals fans already lamenting the retirement of manager Tony La Russa won't get to see Pujols up close for a while—his old and new teams don't meet in interleague play next season.

"He left a pretty good impact over there. I don't think fans will soon forget what his contributions were," said former Cardinals manager and star Joe Torre, now an executive with Major League Baseball. "I still think the St. Louis fans are going to be more appreciative than angry."

Pujols' agent, Dan Lozano, split off last year from the Beverly Hills Sports Council to form his own agency, and Pujols' negotiations seemed like an attempt to surpass A-Rod's landmark first big deal.

"This is a footprint contract, because it follows the footprint laid by other great players," said agent Scott Boras, who negotiated Rodriguez's agreements. "Putting a hitter like Albert Pujols in a big market, where he can be a DH, I think it's a win-win everybody."

Other teams were somewhat surprised by his decision, but not shocked in a sport that has often seen stars shift for larger salaries. Reaction depended on the league.

"For 2012, two wilds cards and no Albert Pujols," New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said. "I'm happy."

Sandusky's wife defends husband in sex abuse case



STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—The wife of ex-Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky said Thursday her husband is innocent of the child sex abuse allegations made against him and that his accusers are making up their stories, including one suggesting she was home while Sandusky attacked a boy who screamed for help.

Dottie Sandusky's comments defending her husband were the first she has made since Sandusky was arrested last month and accused of molesting boys he met through a charity he founded for troubled youth. He faces more than 50 charges and has maintained his innocence.

She released the statement through her husband's lawyer a day after a

grand jury report detailed claims of two new accusers, among them the testimony of one who said he cried out for her help while Sandusky assaulted him in a basement bedroom.

"I am so sad anyone would make such a terrible accusation which is absolutely untrue," she said. "We don't know why these young men have made these false accusations, but we want everyone to know they are untrue."

Dottie Sandusky, who has raised six adopted children, said she has been "shocked and dismayed" by the claims.

"I have been devastated by these accusations," she said. "Our children, our extended family and friends know how much Jerry and I love kids and have always tried to help and care for them. We would never do anything to hurt them."

Earlier Thursday, Jerry Sandusky

was released after a night in jail when he posted bail stemming from the latest child sex abuse charges filed against him. Sandusky secured his release using \$200,000 in real estate holdings and a \$50,000 certified check provided by his wife, according to online court records. A judge has ordered him subject to electronic monitoring.

Sandusky faces criminal accusations from 10 young men who claim he molested them when they were boys in his home, on Penn State property and elsewhere. The scandal has provoked strong criticism that Penn State officials didn't do enough to stop the alleged assaults and prompted the ouster of Hall of Fame football coach Joe Paterno and the school's longtime president, Graham Spanier.

Sandusky, 67, has said repeatedly

that he is innocent and has vowed to fight the case. In interviews with NBC and The New York Times, he said he showered and horsed around with boys but never sexually abused them.

Until her statement, Dottie Sandusky, 68, had kept largely out of sight since the charges were filed. She wasn't seen or heard during his two interviews, had given no interviews herself and had not accompanied Sandusky to court the two times he was brought in for arraignments.

The grand jury report that accompanied the 12 new charges Wednesday said one alleged victim testified Jerry Sandusky kept him in a basement bedroom during overnight visits to the home, fed him there, forced him to perform oral sex and attempted on at least 16 occasions to anally pen-

etrate him, sometimes successfully.

"The victim testified that on at least one occasion he screamed for help, knowing that Sandusky's wife was upstairs, but no one ever came to help him," the grand jury report said.

He described a pattern of sexual assaults by Sandusky over a period of years but testified that he had "barely any" contact with Sandusky's wife during his visits, the grand jury said.

In her statement, Dottie Sandusky disputed his claims. "No child who ever visited our home was ever forced to stay in our basement and fed there. All the kids who visited us ate with us and our kids and other guests when they were at our home," she said.

A spokesman for the state attorney general's office, which is prosecuting Sandusky, declined to comment on her statement, and said he could not discuss whether investigators have interviewed her or want to interview her.

NBA won't approve Paul trade to Lakers



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The NBA's decision to reject a proposed trade involving All-Star guard Chris Paul set the stage for an awkward opening to training camps on Friday in New Orleans, Los Angeles and Houston.

The NBA-owned Hornets thought they had worked out a three-team deal to send Paul to Los Angeles in a deal that also would have sent Lamar Odom to New Orleans and four-time All-Star Pau Gasol to Houston.

The league, however, declined to approve the trade, meaning Paul was expected to report to Hornets camp, while Odom and Gasol were expected to show up when the Lakers opened practice under new head coach Mike Brown.

After deal fell through, Paul simply wrote, "WoW," on his Twitter page.

Odom, too, took to Twitter to share his feelings: "When a team trades u and it doesn't go down? Now what?"

The fallout from the trade that never was caused the NBA to deny reports that deal was nixed because a number of team owners complained about it to NBA commissioner David Stern.

"It's not true that the owners killed the deal, the deal was never discussed at the Board of Governors meeting and the league office declined to make the trade for basketball reasons," league spokesman Mike Bass said.

Yahoo Sports reported that Stern killed the trade after several owners complained. Citing anonymous sources, Yahoo reported Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban was one of the most outspoken owners upset about the deal, done the same day as the end of the lockout, which was supposed to restore competitive balance in the league.

Owners and players ratified a new collective bargaining agreement Thursday, the final step to ending the five-month lockout and allowing training camps and free agency to open Friday.

There was hope in small markets like New Orleans that after the lockout it would be easier for teams to hold on to their stars. Had the deal had been approved, one of pro basketball's biggest stars from the league-owned, small-market Hornets would have moved to one of the NBA's largest, richest markets.

The Hornets have been owned by the NBA since last December, when the league bought the club from founder George Shinn.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that the framework for a deal had been in place earlier Thursday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the talks were supposed to remain confidential.

As part of the trade, the Rockets also had agreed to send forward Luis Scola, shooting guard



Kevin Martin, point guard Goran Dragic and a first-round draft choice to New Orleans.

Odom, whose marriage to Khloe Kardashian and E! network reality show put him at the center of Hollywood's love affair with the Lakers, sounded devastated to be leaving his adopted hometown in an interview on 710 ESPN radio earlier Thursday. Odom was the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year last season, and has spent all but one season of his NBA career with the Clippers or Lakers.

The NBA's move also quashed an attempt by the Lakers to retool their roster after their back-to-back title reign ended last spring with Dallas' second-round playoff sweep. There is, however, still the question of Orlando's Dwight Howard.

The Lakers are widely reported to be interested in acquiring the Magic center, another All-Star expected to move before signing a long-term deal. Unlike Paul, Howard has made no secret of his affection for Los Angeles.

If the Hornets are unable to figure out a trade for Paul, he would be able to opt out of his current contract after the upcoming season.

Speaking earlier Thursday, Hornets president Hugh Weber said the franchise has been preparing for months for the possibility that Paul would resist signing an extension in New Or-

leans, a move that would leave the Hornets with the choice of trading him or simply letting him walk in free agency at the end of the season.

"We've been preparing for this moment for over a year, and it's not like we were surprised or caught flat-footed," Weber said. "This is not a surprise. This is not something where we've been sitting around waiting to see what would happen. We've been managing this and taking control of the situation as best we can and we're going to have a team that we believe achieves that objective of making this community proud."

Paul, 26, averaged 15.8 points and 9.8 assists last season.

Despite the lockout and uncertainty over Paul's future, fan support has been building in New Orleans, where the team has advertised its season-ticket drive as an effort to lure a permanent local buyer who is committed to keeping the team in Louisiana.

The Hornets have increased their season ticket base from a little more than 6,000 last season to 10,019 as of Thursday afternoon.

Paul was drafted by the Hornets fourth overall out of Wake Forest in 2005.

He has been selected to the Western Conference All-Star squad the past four seasons and also was a member of the United States' Olympic gold medal-winning team in Beijing in 2008.

In this April 26, 2011, file photo, New Orleans Hornets guard Chris Paul drives the ball downcourt during the first half in Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers in Los Angeles. AP

NBA owners, players approve new labor deal

NEW YORK (AP)—NBA basketball is back, and Commissioner David Stern insists better than before.

Maybe it won't be noticed right away, but Stern said the "tortured journey" of this 161-day lockout will prove to be worth it.

Stern announced that owners and players ratified a new collective bargaining agreement Thursday, the final step to ending the five-month lockout and paving the way for training camps and free agency to open Friday.

Together with an expanded revenue sharing program, Stern said teams and fans will see an improved league in coming years.

"It's a new beginning in a way," he said. "It's going to take a couple of years to work its way out, but we're very excited about its prospects."

The 10-year deal promises owners savings of perhaps a quarter billion dollars a year but largely leaves intact the soft salary cap system that the players fought hard to maintain.

Stern and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver announced the deal during a press confer-

ence, putting an end to nearly two years of difficult negotiations that resulted in the second shortened season in NBA history. A 66-game schedule will begin on Christmas and run through April 26, forcing every team to play on three straight nights at least once.

Owners approved the deal, which allows either side to opt out after six years, by a 25-5 vote. The players' association said 86 percent of the more than 200 players who voted electronically approved the deal.

Owners also agreed to an expanded revenue sharing plan, and Stern called both agreements "a watershed moment" for the league. The plan, which will begin in 2013-14, more than quadruples the revenue currently shared by teams, with Stern saying they could now receive in excess of \$20 million and at least six teams could pay \$50 million into the plan.

Saying they lost hundreds of millions a year under the old collective bargaining agreement, ratified in 2005, and believing that it favored large-market teams, owners sought significant changes in these ne-

gotiations. They refused an option to let the CBA run another year and opened the process in January 2010 with a proposal that called for a hard cap, the elimination of guaranteed contracts, rollbacks of current salaries and a massive reduction in the players' share of basketball-related income.

Owners locked out the players on July 1 when the old deal expired, and they reached a tentative deal on the main issues around 3 a.m. Nov. 26, heading off the potential of a canceled season and avoiding a possibly costly and lengthy court battle if the players had proceeded with an antitrust lawsuit.

The remaining issues finally were agreed to late Thursday morning, after players already had begun voting electronically.

Though owners insisted they wanted competitive balance just as much as a chance for profit, there's no proof yet they achieved it. Trade rumors involving All-Stars Chris Paul of New Orleans and Dwight Howard of Orlando had them landing in major markets, whose teams cleaned up during most of the old deal, when the Lakers, Celt-

ics and Mavericks claimed the last four championships.

Stern knows the owners, particularly in the small markets, didn't get everything they wanted, but he said "this is going to be a more competitive league over time."

"While it's not perfect, the deal addresses significant issues on both sides in a very productive way, we believe," he added.

Player salaries were reduced by 12 percent, and Stern emphasized new provisions that will allow teams to more easily escape difficult contracts and become competitive more quickly.

"We think it's a very good deal, and it's going to withstand the test of time," he said.

But with the revenue split and system issues taking so much time, there was little opportunity to change the non-economic issues. The draft age limit will remain 19 years at least through the 2012 draft—the league would have liked to go to 20, the players would like to abolish it entirely—and blood testing for human growth hormone won't be implemented this season.

Stern and the owners have

been criticized for taking so long to come to an agreement, with no noticeable proof that the small-market teams who so badly needed relief are getting it. And the lockout comes with damage to the legacy of the 69-year-old Stern in his last CBA negotiations.

But he dismissed fears of that, believing he did what's best for his owners and league.

"I think most importantly we're back to basketball," Silver said. "I think legacies aside, it would have been terrible for the players, for the teams, our fans, concessionaires, everyone involved if we had lost more games than we had, so I think that's what's most important."

Training camps will open at 2 p.m. Friday, with the salary cap staying at \$58 million. Having free agency the same day will be a challenge, but Stern said everyone was ready to go.

"We considered it, but on balance, our teams, our players and our fans were just saying let's get it on," he said. "So even though you could make a logical argument that we could have gained a day one place or the other, it was the overwhelming sentiment that we should just get going and we decided to do that."

Roethlisberger hurt, Steelers hold off Browns , 4-3



PITTSBURGH (AP)—Ben Roethlisberger needed only one good leg for the Pittsburgh Steelers to continue their mastery of the Cleveland Browns.

The Pittsburgh quarterback played through a painful high ankle sprain in the second half to pass for 280 yards and two touchdowns, the last a 79-yard scoring strike to Antonio Brown with 2:52 remaining to help the Steelers to a 14-3 victory.

Roethlisberger went to the locker room for X-rays following a gruesome second-quarter sack but returned to start the second half, passing for 178 yards after the break.

Pittsburgh (10-3) has won eight out of its last nine to move a half-game ahead of Baltimore in the race for the AFC North title.

Colt McCoy passed for 209 yards but also threw two interceptions for the Browns (4-9), who lost for the 15th time in their last 16 meetings with the Steelers.

McCoy left briefly in the fourth quarter after taking a crashing helmet-to-helmet hit from Pittsburgh linebacker James Harrison. The second-year quarterback laid motionless on the ground before making his way to the sideline.

Seneca Wallace filled in, leading Browns to the Pittsburgh 5. McCoy returned but he wasn't the same. He was flagged for intentional grounding on his first play back to push the ball back to the Pittsburgh 16. He tried to hit Mohamed Massaquoi in the end zone on the next snap, but Pittsburgh's William Gay easily stepped in front of it for an interception.

The Steelers took over at the 20. After a running play went nowhere, Roethlisberger found Brown open

down the right sideline. The second-year wide receiver spun away from a defender, then beat Cleveland safety Mike Adams to the end zone.

Brown finished with five receptions for 151 yards and a score, though the game will be remembered not for his dazzling catch-and-run but Roethlisberger's remarkable play.

Despite a pair of turnovers deep in Cleveland territory, the Steelers were in complete command until the game—if not Pittsburgh's season—appeared to change midway through the second quarter.

The Steelers were leading 7-3 when Roethlisberger dropped back to pass on first down at the Pittsburgh 1. He moved up in the pocket to avoid pressure when Cleveland's Scott Paxson corralled Roethlisberger's left leg while teammate Brian Schaefering hit the quarterback in the chest and sent him toppling over awkwardly.

The two-time Super Bowl winner was down on the Heinz Field turf for several minutes before getting up and walking slowly to the locker room.

Backup Charlie Batch was ineffective in relief, failing to complete either of his two passes while taking a sack.

Roethlisberger gamely walked back onto the sideline to start the second half, and received a huge ovation from the crowd after hobbling to the Pittsburgh huddle.

Laboring through every play—even handoffs were a chore—Roethlisberger somehow completed 8 of 12



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) is helped from the field after being injured in the second quarter of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, in Pittsburgh.

passes in the second half.

The Steelers needed every one of them after the Browns stuffed Pittsburgh at the goal line early in the fourth quarter to stay within striking distance at 7-3.

Pittsburgh's defense gave a little but

did not break, keeping McCoy winless against AFC North opponents in his brief career. He's now 0-8 against division rivals.

The Steelers had little trouble moving the ball through the air against the

Sablan-led team led by as much as 16 in the first period, 18-2.

PSS started the first period on a 7-0 run and Fiesta clearly struggled against the former's defense. On a few occasions, Fiesta opted for a long pitch from the backcourt to its frontcourt to avoid PSS' suffocating defense, but the ball hit the low ceiling twice, making life more difficult for the former all night.

PSS kept pressuring Fiesta in the next three quarters and only let its guard down in the last 2:30 of the game when the former had the game already in the bag.

PSS' relentless defense allowed only one Fiesta player to score in double figures in a quarter. Jawn Joyner had 10 markers in the second, but had to bleed for his points. In the fourth, he made eight, but four of them came from the foul line. Elmer Esdreton spent more time evading PSS defenders from the backcourt than squaring up for shots and though he totaled 18 points, he could not make baskets in streaks.

Esdreton was held to two points in the first, five in the second, three in the third, and eight and four missed free throws in the fourth.

PSS' unforgiving defense also caught Ivan Devero by surprise, as the Fiesta gunner was limited to eight points and three field goals. Every time Devero received the ball from the backcourt, two and sometimes three PSS defenders chased him all the way to Fiesta's frontcourt. Devero would either fumble against the tough defense or take hurried shots and muffed them. Ariel Jinang, who finished with 14 points in Fiesta's win over Shirley's still finished with 12 points, but had only one triple and four markers in the last three quarters.

The rest of Fiesta players choked against PSS' ruthless defense with Bruce Berline and Ernie Moises scoring only two points each and Talania making eight ineffective markers.

PSS complemented its efficient defense with a balance offense. Sablan

NFL's top-ranked pass defense before Roethlisberger's injury.

Hines Ward fumbled at the Cleveland 15 early in the second quarter to halt on Pittsburgh drive. The Steelers got it right back on Troy Polamalu's first interception of the year. Polamalu returned the pick to the Cleveland 10.

Following a false start penalty, Roethlisberger hit Heath Miller in the flat, but the ball came tumbling out after getting hit by Cleveland safety Joe Haden to squander another opportunity.

The Browns were hardly better. McCoy appeared to score a touchdown on Cleveland's opening possession, but the score was overturned by replay, which showed McCoy's knee hitting the ground with the ball just short of the goal line.

The Steelers stuffed the Browns on third down and Cleveland settled for a 20-yard Phil Dawson field goal.

Roethlisberger then picked apart the Browns defense to hit Jericho Cotchery for an 11-yard touchdown pass.

The Steelers appeared to be off to the races before Roethlisberger's injury forced them to grind it out. They survived again behind the play of one of the league's toughest competitors.

Roethlisberger has already played through a sprained left foot and a fractured right thumb this season. He added another chapter to his growing legacy with a gritty performance that kept the defending AFC champions' hopes for a division title and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs very much alive.

DFS

From Page 28

later their arguments erupted to a confrontation and police came to question those involved in the scuffle.

Iguel led DFS with 37 big points, while Estolas paced Mobil with 36, but was limited to five points in the second half. Marvin Rabauliman had a quiet 10 points, while Gyles Ruloked and Ron Gamboa were held to eight and two points, respectively, leaving Estolas with inadequate help on offense. Help was a plenty for Iguel, who had five teammates chipping in double figures.

PSS 88, Fiesta 74

In the second semis game, PSS rattled Fiesta with a backcourt pressure defense en route to the 14-point win.

With PSS harassing passers, running after players with possession, and recovering quickly off gambles to challenge every Fiesta shot, the Dave

AG'S

From Page 28

CUC was easily the heavy favorite coming into the post-season tournament, finishing the regular season in first place by a whopping 22 games.

AG's Sakude will face DYS Atidit in the semifinals, who defeated the Troubleshooters, 8-6, in a road match at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill.

The other side of the bracket includes NMC Proa playing host to DPS Enforcers at Jonny's. Both NMC and DPS were given first round byes at the start of the tournament.

The winner of tonight's matches will face off for the coveted Budweiser Cup on Dec. 16.

Meanwhile, the final tables are set for SEDA's Ladies and Master divisions.

Ladies League's No. 1 contender Try Luck of D'Pirates Bar is in prime position to sweep the field.

Try Luck bested Jonny's Island Girls, 8-5, on the road on Wednesday and now has to go through sister team Star Magic in next week's finals.

After receiving a first round bye, fifth-ranked Star Magic downed bottom-feeder Daffodils, 8-4, on the road at Joe's Steakhouse for its championship berth.

In the Master division, Es'y Kitchen's IT&E Kamote's made it past the M-Destroyers, 9-4, at D'Pirates in its semifinal pairing and will square off against the fifth-ranked Snipers, who ousted Jonny's Azkals, 8-4, in a road game last Wednesday.

Frontrunner IT&E Kamote's is also heavily favored to sweep the field, but all bets are off in Master division play.

GBL-ITE

From Page 28

such as a 3-point contest and a buzzer beater challenge.

In addition, fans can vote now on GBL's Facebook pages at Garapan GBL or Garapan Basketball League for the Best Player and Best in Sportsmanship awards.

Pennant champion Konflikt-IT&E went undefeated in the eliminations with a 7-0 win-loss record, including two forfeits in its last two assignments. The team received an automatic bid into the semifinals.

Then comes Proa in second place with a 5-2 card, while Mobil currently holds the third spot with an even 3-3 standing.

FGC, Blue Haus-Satbahi, and the Ol'Aces are all knotted up at 2-3, while Andocks is at 1-5.

These standings were adjusted as a result of Running Rebels pulling out of the league for failing to submit its entrance fee during GBL's weeklong game suspension.

The Rebels are made up mostly of Rollers Basketball Club players and were positioned solidly in third place with a 3-1 slate before being ousted.

Coincidentally, coming into the start of the season, the GBL made claims of working alongside the RBC group to fulfill its goal of contributing to the Garapan Community Outreach Program.

"It was unfortunate that the Rebels were unable to keep competing, but we still plan on working together with the RBC in the future," assured Perez yesterday over the phone.

Perez claimed that the GBL is hosting a youth sports clinic for the Gara-

pan youth early next year and even has plans of inviting a U.S. certified physical therapist to teach players how to prevent and treat minor injuries sustained while playing sports.

RBC and Rebels head coach Joe Diaz did not comment in detail about the Rebels' dismissal, but did disclose that he came up short with the fee because of some new allocation rules that were recently initiated by his sponsors.

In any rate, the GBL is also announcing the start of its U17 Youth League some time early next year.

"We are inviting all interested teams and coaches to email us at gbl670@yahoo.com if you want to reserve a slot in the competition," stated Perez in an email on Thursday. Visit GBL's Facebook pages for updates more information.

Perez also announced that he started

had 26 points, Kelvin Fitial added 25, Mel Manibusan contributed 14, and James Villacrusis and Walter Mendez combined for 17.

First Game

DFS Galeria 109 – Iguel 37, Guiab 19, Lizama 14, White 12, Barcinas 11, Johnson 10, Jung 6.

Mobil 86 – Estolas 36, Demapan 10, Rabauliman 10, Gapor 8, Ruloked 8, Sharry 4, De Guzman 4, Jose 2, Bautista 2, Gamboa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-19, 46-47, 77-70, 109-86.

Second Game

PSS/McGraw-Hil 88 – Sablan 26, Fitial 25, Manibusan 14, Villacrusis 9, Mendez 8, Cabrera 2, Bunilag 2.

Fiesta 74 – Joyner 24, Esdreton 18, Jinang 12, Talania 8, Devero 8, Moises 2, Berline 2

Scoring by quarters: 22-14, 46-39, 62-52, 88-74.

his own non-profit organization called the Garapan Sports Club back in mid-November.

At the beginning of the GBL season, Perez claimed that the league was organized under the United Chinese Sports Club, which also used to manage the QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup series under Perez in recent years.

Perez assures "no harm, no foul" on the switch as he was the lone person in charge of running the GBL in the first place. He also said that he opted out of his former organization because of a lack of accessibility to the UCSC board members, who were often off-island.

"I resigned from the UCSC and decided to start my own organization in Garapan. This way I don't have to wait anymore on board members when making day-to-day decisions," said Perez yesterday.



Pujols, Angels reach \$254 million, 10-year deal

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DFS vs PSS in Shirley's finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The stage is set for DFS Galleria and PSS/McGraw-Hill's championship showdown in the 3rd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League, following their separate semis wins last Thursday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

DFS and PSS mapped put an effective game plan to outclass their separate foes and advanced to the winner-take-all finale tomorrow at 7pm. DFS used its fastbreak plays to breeze past Mobil, 109-86, while PSS put up a pressure defense early on en route to an 88-74 triumph over Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Pete Iguel anchored DFS' fastbreak attack at the start of the match, scoring 11 points, while Dan Barcinas, Junar Guiab, and Jack Lizama had their share in the team's fast-paced game for an early double-digit lead, 30-



Left, DFS Galleria's Pete Iguel goes up for one of his several fourth-quarter fastbreak layups against Mobil's Jun Estolas during their semis game in the Shirley's caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Right, PSS/McGraw-Hill's Mel Manibusan goes up for a shot against Fiesta's Ernie Moises, left, and Jawn Joyner during the fourth quarter of their semis game in the Shirley's caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

19. Mobil fell behind by double digits in the first quarter with only Jun Estolas active on offense with 13 markers.

Estolas continued to carry Mobil on his shoulders and his efforts were rewarded, as they took the lead at halftime, 47-46.

DFS lost the lead in the second period when only Iguel scored more than one field goal, but was held to only five points.

Iguel then stepped on the pedal anew in the third, sizzling for 13 points to bring DFS back into the driver's seat, 77-70. Mobil

played flat again in the third and was badly hurt by Estolas' one-point production in that canto.

DFS then pulled away in the last four minutes of the game, scoring on fastbreak plays in succession. DFS was ahead by only 10, 94-84, with 4:01 left on the clock, when Mobil started missing and forcing shots. In contrast, DFS played tough defense and at one point in the closing minutes of the match made four straight fastbreak layups. Johnson and Lizama had one each, while Iguel drained fastbreak layups, giving DFS a commanding 102-84 advantage, 1:49 left on the clock.

Mobil missed another shot and in DFS' ensuing play, Jorge De Guzman gave up a frustration foul, pushing off a posting Guiab. The infraction did not end there, as De Guzman attempted to kick referee Toto Banatasa, who turned away from the baseline play to report the foul to the scorers' table. At first, De Guzman seemed to be toying around with Banatasa, but it was too late, as his left knee hit the latter on the legs. De Guzman was called for a technical foul with Guiab splitting the two free charities and later making an uncontested undergoal stab off Gabriel White's feed to put the final nail on Mobil's coffin.

After the heated game, fans of the opposing teams left the court with emotions high and

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GBL-ITE Cup playoff rounds start Dec. 15

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Garapan Basketball League announced that the opening round of its playoff schedule tips off on Dec. 15 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The first game starts at 6:30pm followed by the 8pm nightcap. The playoffs will be played under a single-elimination format with a best-of-three championship series.

There are a few regular season continuation matches yet to finish up, but the playoffs should run as scheduled, weather permitting.

During breaks of the action there will be various side games

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Mobil's Juan Maratita grabs the rebound before going up for a nifty put-back in their GBL-ITE game against Blue Haus-Satbahi at the Garapan Basketball Court.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AG's Sakude, seen here in a file photo, stunned top-ranked Team CUC in last Friday's SEDA Bud Cup semifinals at Jonny's Bar & Grill.

AG's Sakude upsets Team CUC in Inter-Govt Bud Cup

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

AG's Sakude upset top-ranked Team CUC, 8-5, in a home draw at Jonny's Bar & Grill to advance to the Saipan Dart Association's Inter-Government Bud Cup semifinals last Friday.

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